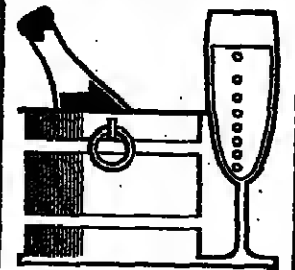


No 62,386

Tomorrow



A restaurant dream...

Always wanted to own your own restaurant? A bistro your idea of bliss? Dinner party dreamers who join the professionals often find they have bitten off more than they can chew. Check out the pitfalls of becoming a patron, before you crack open the champagne.

NY memories

A National debut for Neil Simon

Kingston showdown

Testing time for England in the West Indies

Portfolio

There is £4,000 to be won in today's Times Portfolio daily competition as there was no winner yesterday. Portfolio list page 21; how to play, information service, page 32.

Argentines reject talks offer

The visiting delegation of Argentine parliamentarians announced that they had rejected an invitation to hold talks with Mr Timothy Fagan, a junior minister at the Foreign Office. A government statement expressed disappointment.

BP record

Record profits of £1.6 billion have been announced by BP which has also defended its decision not to cut petrol prices more quickly at the pumps.

Sanctions call

Sanctions to prevent dentists "drilling for gold" by carrying out unnecessary treatments were urged yesterday by a Government inquiry.

Snub by EEC

EEC envoys in Manila called on Mrs Corazon Aquino in what appeared to be an unprecedented diplomatic gesture, and a snub for President Marcos in the wake of the recent disputed poll.

Space first

The Soviet Union put into orbit a giant, new-generation space station in a public relations exercise to dramatize the forthcoming Communist Party congress.

Reagan visit

President Reagan arrived in Grenada for a five-hour visit. He was greeted by the Governor-General, Sir Paul Scoon, and the Prime Minister, Mr Herbert Blaize.

NRA pledge

Uganda's new Government said it would remain in power for a maximum of four years and pledged to honour legal obligations incurred by previous administrations.

Justice quest

A couple's struggle over three and a half years to see justice against the man they blamed for killing their son with drugs was vindicated when the man was jailed for manslaughter.

End of ban?

The ban on English football clubs competing in Europe could be lifted by the UEFA congress in April, according to a senior FIFA official.

Home News

Table with 2 columns: Home News, Letters. Items include Overseas, Apts, Arts, Court, Crosswords, Diary, Festivals, Law Report, Leaders.

Parents to get more powers in schools

By David Walker

Parents are to have a far stronger say in the running of schools in England and Wales, the Government promised yesterday. It published an education Bill that would end the "domination" of school governors' meetings by political activists by increasing representation of parents.

The Bill also gives the Government wide new powers to set up a system of testing teachers' competence in the classroom. But the machinery is to be kept in reserve because it hopes teachers' unions and councils can agree on a voluntary scheme as part of a settlement of the teachers' pay dispute.

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, said yesterday that reformed governing bodies for schools, due to be established from September 1987, could mean more discipline, less peace studies, but perhaps also more pressure from parents for spending on education.

The reform will affect 28,000 state schools, primary and secondary. In future representatives of parents are to equal the number of governors appointed by local councils. The Government has retreated from its original intention of giving parents a majority.

Governors are to have a much clearer definition of responsibilities, though the Government has stopped short of giving them much additional influence over what is taught, how much teachers are paid, and how well they teach.

Governors will be required to think about what is taught. Nothing has better illustrated the impotence of governors than their inability to question what children were taught.

Guinness steps up Distillers fight

By Jeremy Warner, Business Correspondent

Guinness made a fresh attempt yesterday to "push through an agreed £2.35 billion merger with Distillers, the Johnnie Walker whisky and Gordon's gin drinks group.

The new merger terms come less than a week after the proposed tie-up appeared to have been killed off by a reference to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. But the brewer has come up with a formula which it believes will quell fears at the Office of Fair Trading and in the Government about the effects of the merger on competition in the whisky market.

Guinness said that it would sell rights to a number of Distillers whisky brands in the home market to reduce the combined group's share to less than 25 per cent.

These brands would probably include Claymore, which has about 6 per cent of the market; Haig, with 3 per cent; The Real Mackenzie and Buchanan Blend, both with 2 per cent; and John Barr, with less than 1 per cent.

The new group, however, would retain the rights in export markets to The Real Mackenzie, Buchanan and Haig, one of Scotland's oldest whiskies with a known history dating back to the 17th century.

Guinness, which owns Britain's best-selling Scotch, Bell's, said that rights to the brands would be vested in a new company which would escape a reference to the Monopolies Commission.

The Office of Fair Trading said that it had no prior knowledge of the fresh merger proposal and could not say at this stage whether it would escape a reference to the Monopolies Commission.

There was confusion last night over whether the formula would satisfy the Government's competition requirements. Guinness said that the proposal had been vetted by Sir Godfrey Le Quesne, the chairman of the Monopolies Commission, who had advised Mr Geoffrey Pattie, Minister of State for Industry, to lay aside the previous reference decision.

However, Argyle said it understood that Mr Pattie did not know that Guinness was about to launch a fresh bid and agreed to lay aside the reference only because he thought Guinness had given up the chase. The Department of Trade and Industry was unable to comment.

Mr David Webster, Argyle's finance director, said he felt sure that the fresh bid would suffer the same fate as the first and be referred to the Monopolies Commission.



The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh with five Gurkha holders of the Victoria Cross in Kathmandu, Nepal, yesterday. From the left they are: Ram Bahadur Limbu, Tul Bahadur Pun, Ganju Lama, Bhanbakra Gurung and Agarsing Rai. Limbu won his VC during the Borneo campaign for rescuing two men while under intense machine-gun fire and without cover.

Tebbit rails at Tory critics

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Mr Norman Tebbit attacked yesterday the "unsung leaders of the dirty and cheap" opposition parties in a speech which swept aside his Cabinet colleagues' appeals for a smoother approach to the political battlefield.

Speaking at a lunch arranged by the American Chamber of Commerce in London, the Conservative Party chairman's criticism appeared to apply to Tory dissidents such as Mr Michael Heseltine as well as Labour and Alliance leaders.

He said: "I deeply regret that self-styled serious contenders for high political office should be willing to damage both our Anglo-American friendship and indeed the prospects for jobs in Britain by using dirty and cheap anti-Americanism in pursuit of dirty and cheap political parties."

But he also said that the Americans should not get paranoid; they were not the only victims. "An even more deplorable result of this dirty campaign for votes between Mr Kinnoch and his rivals in the Labour Party and the warring factions in the other parties, is that great institutions and public servants of high repute are being bombarded with mud and dirt, without thought of the damage inflicted."

In spite of recent appeals from Mr John Biffen, the Leader of the Commons, for a less "raucous" approach, and from Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, for less political "scrapping" of opponents, Mr Tebbit went even further.

He said that once the present bout of mud-slinging had died down the Conservative party would confront the voters with the issues of the next election. "They would include a choice for the nation between continued Conservative-led recovery or whether it will sink back into half-baked Socialism, or even hard-baked Socialism. That is, whether it will become more like West Germany or East Germany, more akin to America or Albania."

Mr Tebbit's ministerial critics were last night expressing a degree of resignation at their Continued on page 2, col 3

Thatcher attacks anti-US hysteria

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Prime Minister and her senior colleagues yesterday accused opponents of the General Motors - British Leyland deal of deliberately stoking up anti-American feeling in their efforts to thwart the takeover.

In a concerted government drive to win support for the American option Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Norman Tebbit, the Conservative Party chairman, welcomed overseas investment in Britain and, along with Mr Paul Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, made clear that Leyland's losses could not continue to be borne.

In another development Sir John Hoskyns, former head of the Prime Minister's policy unit, said it had been wrong to call off the talks between Austin Rover and Ford, blaming ministers whom he said had not thought the issue through and had deflected the Government by reacting to emotions.

In the Commons Mrs Thatcher said that support for British Leyland had cost every family in Britain £200, a situation that could not continue. She said that British companies had acquired 160 businesses in the United States last year and 142 in 1984; there was no anti-British feeling there.

But she added: "I fear that some anti-American feeling has been around - I fear some deliberately - in the United Kingdom about the future of British Leyland."

Mr Tebbit, in a speech to the American Chamber of Commerce, said that the United Kingdom was now seen by the United States and Japanese companies as the most favourable base for long-term investment giving them access to the European market. "What a change. Past efforts by governments other than this to find foreign suitors for BL were derided and criticized only for their failure. Today the Government is criticized because a foreign buyer might well be successful!"

Mr Tebbit said that for many years increasing American investment in Britain had been creating jobs and prosperity. The Government welcomed inward investment, he said. Mr Tebbit attacked the party's opponents in the House of Commons, accusing them of "dirty and cheap anti-Americanism in pursuit of dirty and cheap political parties."

Talks at Acas over Wapping dispute

By Michael Horsnell

Exploratory talks between News International and the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service took place in London yesterday over the dismissal of 5,000 print workers involved in the newspaper group's move to Wapping, east London.

After the 90-minute meeting a joint statement said only that further talks may be possible soon. News International explained its position in the dispute, which began last month when its printers went on strike and the company abandoned publication at its premises in Gray's Inn Road and Bowdler Street.

The talks coincided with three further developments in the dispute yesterday: Sogat '82, the print union which was fined £25,000 and had its £17 million assets frozen for contempt of court after ignoring a High Court order to stop instructing its members at wholesalers to black the four newspapers, paid the fine. But it declined to purge its contempt; The Leeds office of the sequestrators, London chartered accountants Ernst and Whinney, was occupied for more than two hours by 20

US blames PLO for peace talks failure

From Michael Binyon, Washington

The Reagan Administration said yesterday that despite the breakdown of talks between King Hussein and the Palestine Liberation Organization, it would continue its efforts to encourage direct negotiations between Jordan and Israel for a "just, durable and lasting peace in the Middle East."

But it suggested there would be little movement forward while all parties embarked on a "period of reflection." In a statement strongly critical of the PLO, the State Department said its leadership had been unable to meet the King's challenge to accept key United Nations Security Council resolutions which he had termed the basic cornerstone of a just settlement.

"The PLO leadership has been unable to agree to negotiations with Israel and unable to end violence while negotiations are under way." The Administration clearly believes that it will now be impossible for the King to go ahead on his own unless some means is found of including non-PLO Palestinians. The latest twist confirms Washington's view that Mr Yassir Arafat cannot be trusted.

Washington is eager to keep its lines of communication open to King Hussein, though the indefinite postponement of the \$1.5 billion arms package for Jordan has certainly cast a shadow over relations. Peace setback, page 6

Judge challenge to Hailsham over 'gag'

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A judge has challenged Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, over the rules which prevent judges from speaking publicly in the media, in a campaign for reform which puts his job at direct risk.

Judge Pickles, a circuit judge based at Leeds, who has come close to dismissal for speaking out in the past, has made an unspoken attack on the so-called Kilnour rules drawn up in 1985 by the Lord Chancellor of that name to ensure that the judiciary was "insulated against the controversies of the day."

Judge Pickles said the rules were now much too wide and their "rigid application" by Lord Hailsham was not supported by a number of judges. "An increasing number of us is becoming restless. Unless a

judge renounces, as I have, any sort of promotion, honor, or reward, all of which flow from Lord Hailsham's overflowing hands, it is dangerous to step out of line," he said. His comments, first made in an article in a national newspaper, are to be followed by a broadcast this week on the BBC radio *Law In Action* programme.

"I'm breaking new ground. I'm trying to undermine the judiciary which is rather a hold thing to do. I'm not doing this because I like to live dangerously but because I believe it's about time for a bit of frankness and honesty in this profession which is so cocooned with half-truths," Judge Pickles said in an interview with *The Times*.

He said judges must be free to contribute to public discussion. "We are not running a public company. The public and what they think matter most. What do they think about the rules and about the way Lord Hailsham applies them? I would like to know." Judge Pickles, aged 66, is a

must-speaking Yorkshireman who describes himself as a "radical", although he has voted Conservative. He is well known to radio listeners as the successful playwright James Fairfax, and more recently has written under his own name, James Pickles. Wilfred Pickles, the actor, is his uncle.

He decided to speak out against the "gagging of judges" in two newspaper articles last year which brought the full opprobrium of the Lord Chancellor upon him. In a letter, Lord Hailsham said he considered the articles, which concerned Government pressure on judges to shorten sentences, the parole system and weaknesses of the prison system, as prima facie "judicial misbehaviour", which is a ground for dismissing a judge.

Judge Pickles protested. The Lord Chancellor replied that recent events, and in particular the newspaper articles, "show you have not heeded the warnings which those senior to you have given. This must be the result of foolishness or a complete lack of sensitivity".

The judge gave an undertaking not to write further newspaper articles, but he has now withdrawn that undertaking. Apart from the Kilnour rules and the parole system, he said he is also concerned about judicial delays and the "overwhelming number of bail applications".

A spokesman for the Lord Chancellor's Department said yesterday: "The Kilnour rules were the subject of an extensive trawl of the judiciary last year and the overwhelming view was that they should be retained."

Alarm over forestry 'sell-off'

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

There was confusion in government circles last night over reports that vast stretches of woodland, worth perhaps £1,000 million, were to be privatized.

A reported decision by ministers in sell almost everything owned by the Forestry Commission would have meant that plantations and beauty spots adding up to more than the areas of Devon and Cornwall combined were up for grabs.

However, last night the Scottish Office said that no decisions had been taken. Most of the commission's land is in Scotland. The Scottish Office added that it had received a recommendation from the commission for disposal of land to private investors.

Any such decision would mark a rapid acceleration of the piecemeal sales of commission land that began more than four years ago, amid complaints that the process has been too secretive and too rapid for nature-lovers to buy woods important for wildlife.

A meeting of ministers yesterday failed to dispel confusion. No statement was issued after Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, met Mr Nicholas Edwards and Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Secretaries of State for Wales and Scotland.

It was not clear how the Government would sell the land without disrupting the market. Woods sold so far have fetched between about £150 and £650 an acre, depending on size, position and commercial prospects. Some have not found buyers.

Conservative and Labour MPs reacted angrily yesterday. Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, said: "Any option which includes the wholesale flogging off of Forestry Commission land—especially since the Commission was set up by general acclamation—to City and commercial interests will be fought tooth and nail."

News International explained its position in the dispute, which began last month when its printers went on strike and the company abandoned publication at its premises in Gray's Inn Road and Bowdler Street.

The talks coincided with three further developments in the dispute yesterday: Sogat '82, the print union which was fined £25,000 and had its £17 million assets frozen for contempt of court after ignoring a High Court order to stop instructing its members at wholesalers to black the four newspapers, paid the fine. But it declined to purge its contempt; The Leeds office of the sequestrators, London chartered accountants Ernst and Whinney, was occupied for more than two hours by 20



Advertisement for SAA (South African Airways) move to Heathrow Terminal 1. Text includes: FROM APRIL 12TH, SAA move to Heathrow Terminal 1. To and from South Africa, SAA offer one-terminal simplicity at Heathrow Terminal 1. Connections with other airports throughout the UK, Ireland and Europe. More choice of non-stops to and from South Africa.

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Couple win three-year fight to jail man who killed son with drugs

A mother's struggle over three-and-a-half years to bring to court the man she blames for the death of her teenage son ended successfully yesterday when he was jailed for 15 months for manslaughter.

Mrs Pauline Williams, aged 45, clutched her husband and gave a sigh of relief when the jury at St Alban's Crown Court returned a verdict of guilty on Gary Austin, aged 25.

The jury of six men and six women took more than three hours to decide by a unanimous verdict that he had unlawfully killed Mr John Williams, aged 19, a dairy worker.

They also found him guilty of maliciously administering a noxious substance, the drug Palfium, so as to endanger life. He was sentenced to 15 months' imprisonment on that charge, to run concurrently.

Passing sentence, Mr Justice Staughton said: "This case must be a warning to those who inject others with dangerous drugs, even at their request, or help others to inject themselves.

"If the other person dies, such conduct is manslaughter for which the maximum sentence is life imprisonment."

The prosecution alleged that Austin, a despatch rider, of Burton Road, Stockwell, south London, had caused the death of Mr Williams by assisting him to inject Palfium, a pain-killer used by cancer patients.

After the incident on September 2, 1982, the Director of Public Prosecutions advised the police that there was insufficient evidence to bring charges against Austin.

But Mrs Williams and her husband, Ray, aged 48, a motor fitter of Whipperley Ring, Luton, Bedfordshire, were prepared to spend around £16,000 of their savings to take the case to court.

It was the first time this century that a manslaughter case instigated by a private prosecution had been brought to trial. The DPP took over the case after magistrates at Luton committed Austin for trial last September.

After they had returned their verdicts, the foreman of the jury was asked whether they had found that Austin had injected all of the contents of a syringe into Mr Williams, some of the contents, or whether Mr Williams had injected himself.

The jury foreman said they had found that some of the

contents of the syringe had been injected by Austin.

As the verdict was announced, friends and relatives of Austin began sobbing.

Det Insp Richard Roscoe then read out to the packed courtroom details of Austin's criminal record, which included two fines for possession of drugs, including LSD, a three-year prison sentence imposed in March 1983 for the burglary of chemists' shops and the theft of drugs, and for possessing the Palfium involved in the Williams case.

He had been released from prison in March 1984, after serving 18 months.

Mr Stephen Coward, for Austin, said: "The man who in September 1982 was deeply embroiled in the hard drugs scene, and injected hard drugs, is now out of it."

He said the defendant had received a small inheritance enabling him to move away from Luton, buy a motorcycle and obtain a job in London as a despatch rider.

"He has got a girlfriend and for the first time for many years has seen some prospect of living his life away from the horrors that your Lordship has heard about," Mr Coward said.



The Princess of Wales opening the British Medical Association's new library at Tavistock Square, London, yesterday.

Thatcher attacks anti-US hysteria

Continued from page 1

Mr Channon, speaking at a trade and industry forum at Conservative Central Office, said that a merger between Bedford and Land Rover-Leyland offered one way out of both companies' difficulties. Both were under-utilized, both were losing money and despite the obvious merits of their products both were failing to generate the income which they needed to fund the next generation of vehicles. Such a position could not be maintained.

He denied suggestions by Conservative and Labour MPs that Land Rover was part of the deal as a "sweetener". Land Rover was part of the potential deal because it would be good for Land Rover making clear that other offers would be examined on their merit Mr Channon over-the-top added: "The GM deal seems likely to offer real solutions to real problems."

Sir John, who is the director general of the Institute of Directors, said that Austin Rover was a weak company despite the achievements of management and workforce and the Government would have been irresponsible not to have talked to Ford.

In the Commons Mrs Thatcher and Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, clashed over the assurances being sought from potential buyers. Mrs Thatcher said there were no binding enforceable assurances about the future of a loss-making BL.

Savage says faults over births not incompetence

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Mrs Wendy Savage, the obstetrician, yesterday told the inquiry into her professional future that she felt isolated from the rest of her consultant colleagues at the London Hospital and from important policy decisions after Professor Geddis Grudzinski became head of the obstetrics department.

She practised alone at the hospital's Mile End site, while her four male colleagues were based at Whitechapel.

When she went to divisional meetings to discuss departmental policy she felt excluded because the four consultants at Whitechapel would get together, decide what they wanted to do, and when she met I was presented with a fait accompli," she told the inquiry on the second day of her defence. "I became isolated from the decision-making process."

Asked if she thought that was deliberate, she said: "It is hard to know. I assumed it was not at the time, but looking back it is difficult to say."

Mrs Savage has accused her colleagues of "extraordinary and unprecedented manoeuvres" which led to her suspension last year, and that they were "intolerant" of methods which differed from their own.

Yesterday, the second day of the inquiry, she defended her handling of the cases over which she is accused of professional incompetence, admitting that in some instances mistakes were made but that those did not amount to anything like incompetence.

In the case of Mrs AU, who underwent a long labour attempting to give birth through a contracted pelvis with the baby dying eight days after birthing, she told her colleagues during an internal inquiry into the death that "although obstetric opinion may differ, I do not regard my management of Mrs AU as controversial."

She left instructions that the mother should be given a trial of labour and believed her registrar was experienced enough to decide when a Caesarean section was necessary.

The registrar telephoned Professor Grudzinski during the night because he was worried about the case but did not contact her. When she discussed the case later with the registrar, Dr Toby Fay, she told the inquiry, he said to her: "I did not want to do another Caesarean because I was tired."

She told him, she said, "that I do not believe this baby died because of the labour or delivery but because of a rare blood disorder."

The child is believed to have died from a tear in the brain but no post-mortem examination was carried out, at the request of the parents.

In the case of Mrs SF, who spent eight hours in the second stage of labour, Mrs Savage said the case was most unusual in that the mother had no desire to push. She used a syntocinon drip to encourage contractions because neither the mother nor baby was distressed and it was clear that the baby was not in danger. It was eventually delivered by Caesarean section.

In the case of Mrs LG, whose baby was still-born, Mrs Savage agreed that there had been a failure to pick up early warning signs of the baby not growing properly in the womb, but pointed to administrative slip-ups and misjudgements in ante-natal care.

The inquiry continues.

Acas holds talks about Wapping

Continued from page 1

demonstrators protesting about the seizure of Sogal's assets.

The National Graphical Association, the other traditional print union involved in the dispute, again deferred announcing the result of a ballot among its members producing *The Times* weekly supplements amid speculation that it has lost the vote for backing the three publications.

The NGA says that by holding a successful ballot it would be legally entitled to reimpose backing of the supplements. It has already been fined £25,000 for contempt for ignoring an order to stop the backing.

The NGA did not explain yesterday why it had not announced the result of its ballot last Sunday of its 50 members in Northampton who help to produce the three weeklies.

Sogal's decision to pay its fine came after meetings between its general secretary Miss Brenda Dean and the four sequestrators from Ernst and Whinney.

This in turn came after a slight relaxation of the terms of the sequestration by Mr Justice Taylor at a High Court hearing on Tuesday night.

At that hearing, which was not disclosed until yesterday, the union was permitted to pay essential bills through the

sequestrators for the running of its convalescent homes together with genuine hardship and disability payments.

Mr Christopher Warman, the property correspondent of *The Times* was taken to hospital with a badly cut face last night after a broken glass was thrust into his face by a man who accused him of being a scab.

The incident happened in the Pakenham Arms, near the newspaper's former Gray's Inn Road offices. The attacker and two companions ran away.

Two people are to appear before Thames magistrates next week after a demonstration by 2,000 people outside the Wapping plant on Wednesday night. Five police officers were hurt but none seriously, Scotland Yard said.

Distribution of *The Times* and *The Sun*, which enjoyed full production runs, was not affected.

Police offered no evidence against nine out of 15 demonstrators.

The nine all agreed to be bound over for 12 months in the sum of £50. The other six were remanded on bail.

A group of Left-wing Labour MPs yesterday urged the Home Secretary to declare Mr Robert Murdoch an "undesirable alien" and stop him re-entering the United Kingdom in the interests of decency and public order.

Tebbit rails at critics

Continued from page 1

colleague's irrepressible aggression, which was yesterday applied to anyone who fitted the description which was issued.

Although Mr Heseltine has recently been accused of impugning the integrity of public servants, Mr Tebbit yesterday specifically quoted a recent letter from Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, to the Prime Minister on the Hansard bid for Imperial to illustrate his attack on the mud-slingers.

Mr Tebbit said that Mr Steel had mischievously suggested that the Hanson bid had been given the all-clear "as a thank you for Lord Hanson's role in the Westland affair" when he backed Sikorsky "while the GEC bid for Plessey had been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission because they had been on the 'wrong side' of the Westland struggle."

The Conservative chairman said that the aim against Mr Paul Crammer, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, was had enough but Mr Steel's letter had also suggested "the smear" that Sir Gordon Borrie, the Independent Director General of Fair Trading, had acted "as a political payola agent for the Conservative party."

But Mr Tebbit said that the mud-slinging would not last and the electorate would inexorably be faced with the debate about real issues: how the Thatcher administration had killed fears that the country was unmanageable; had restored hyper-inflation; reversed industrial relations; rolled back state control; doubled the number of shareholders; and liberated nearly 900,000 former council tenants.

He concluded: "If I happen to be with you again, to say 1990, we will be looking back on another string of success for Mrs Thatcher and her government, another list of gloomy prognostications unfulfilled, and looking forward to a fourth consecutive Conservative election win in 1992 or thereabouts."

£10.5m boost for art heritage fund

The National Heritage Memorial Fund is to get an extra £10.5 million to save works of art and valuable estates for the nation.

The decision, announced yesterday by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for the Environment, comes after pressure for greater government support for the fund, which is the main source of state finance for items threat-

ened with export or dispersal through sales.

Soaring international art prices have made it virtually impossible for national institutions to make realistic bids.

Pirelli, the tyre maker, is to sponsor a new garden for exhibitions and fairs at the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, in London, at a cost of more than £250,000.

Farmers told to dip sheep

Farmers were told yesterday by the Ministry of Agriculture that all sheep must be dipped twice this year in an attempt to eradicate sheep scab disease.

Treatment should take place between June 28 and August 9 and again between September 20 and November 1.

Sellafield inspectors prepare for safety inquiry

By Peter Davenport

Senior officials of the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate yesterday began assembling the team which will carry out the inquiry into safety at the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant.

Although the 12 inspectors are not expected to move on to the site in Cumbria until next week the detailed planning for the investigation has begun.

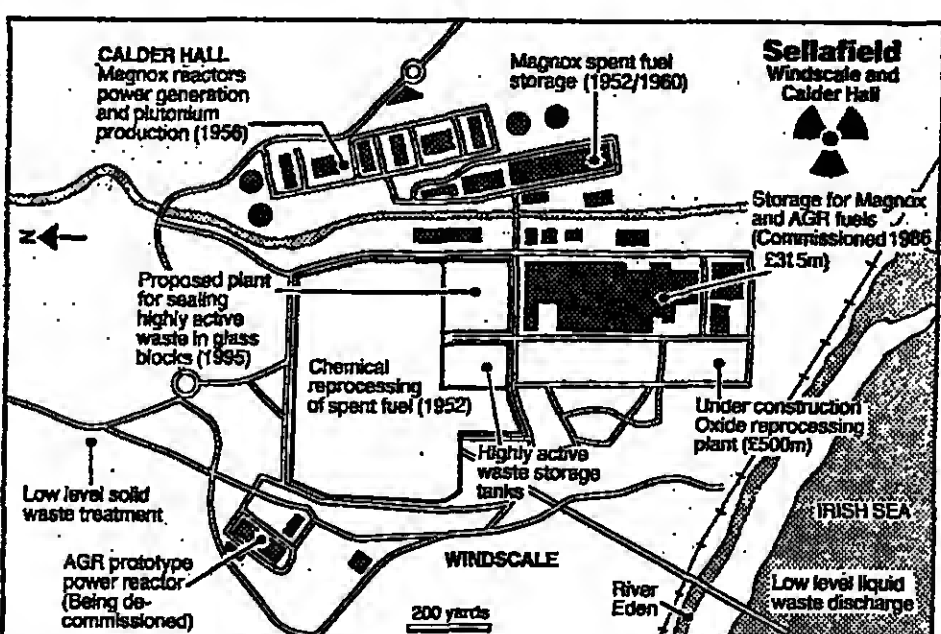
The team, which will be in the plant for three months with a further three months preparing its report, was being selected by Mr Jim Hannaford, head of the inspectorate's No 3 branch, based in Liverpool, and which has special responsibility for Sellafield.

He was in contact during the day with the inspectorate's chief, Mr Eddie Ryder.

Once the 12 inspectors have been selected and briefed, senior members of the team will hold talks with executives of British Nuclear Fuels, which operates Sellafield, at the company's headquarters at Risley, near Warrington, in the middle of next week. The on-site investigation will start soon afterwards.

The inspectors will be backed up by officials of the accident prevention advisory unit of the Health and Safety Executive, which announced the safety inquiry on Wednesday. Yesterday Mr Jake Kelly, the BNFL spokesman at Sellafield, said: "We welcome the inquiry. We have nothing to hide. He denied allegations that the company had given wrong information about recent incidents.

For example, he said, in the escape of plutonium mist, initial medical tests disclosed



Euro vote to close plant

The European Parliament voted by 135 to 99 yesterday in favour of the temporary shutdown of the Sellafield nuclear reprocessing plant, pending the outcome of a Commons inquiry.

The call came at the end of a passionate emergency debate in Strasbourg, in which the Government and British Nuclear Fuels were accused of failing to heed warnings.

Amid groans and boos from other MEPs, Mrs Sheila Faith, Cumbria and Lancashire North, attacked calls for the plant's closure as "irresponsible and alarmist".

She questioned whether it was any more dangerous than the mining, chemical or even the building industries.

Other Euro MPs, mainly Irish members concerned about nuclear discharges into the Irish Sea, expressed alarm at the recent rate of leakage.

Fianna Fail's Mrs Eileen Lemass described Sellafield's record as a disaster. She said the EEC had full responsibility for policing the Common Market's nuclear industry under a 1958 treaty.

EEC Commissioner Mr Stanley Clifton Davis, who is conducting an EEC-level inquiry, promised an early report. He made it clear he was in favour of a European policy aimed at removing the need for all nuclear discharges as soon as technically possible.

'Ostrich-like' printers

Mr Norman Tehbit, the Conservative Party chairman, attacked the print unions when he spoke to the American Chamber of Commerce in London.

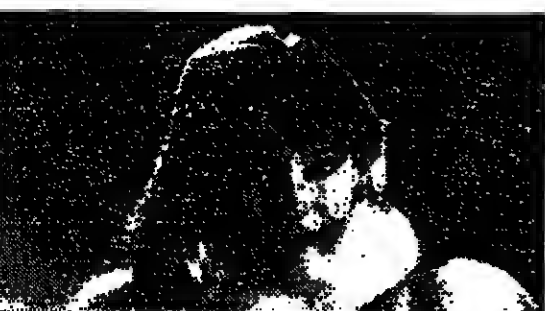
He said: "Like ostriches the printers of Fleet Street buried their heads in the sand. They hoped the new technology would go away and, more reactionary than any country squire, they rejoiced in having resisted change."

"But now they have the barefaced cheek to accuse News International of taking from them the wealth they believed they had created."

"Fleet Street has for years been littered with the financial corpses of the press barons who could not stand against the losses from producing newspapers the printers' way."

Mr Tehbit said he had some sympathy with News International's former printers: "But they must have known that the type had been set a long time ago for this story. I am glad to say that Fleet Street in general now represents no more than an absurd anachronism in British industry."

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MUSQUASH & LENGTH JACKETS	£795 £179
SILVER FOX JACKETS	£895 £199
CANADIAN COYOTE JACKETS	£1095 £229
MINK JACKETS	£995 £245
FULL LENGTH MUSQUASH COATS	£1295 £375
FULL LENGTH MINK COATS	£1695 £450
FULLY STRANDED CANADIAN RED FOX COATS	£2995 £995
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Risks and safeguards of nuclear reprocessing

By Pearce Wright Science Editor

Countries with nuclear power have taken two distinct approaches to the treatment of spent fuel rods from atomic power stations. They are either reprocessed as at Sellafield, or stored intact.

The second method is referred to as "once-through fueling".

The main argument for reprocessing is to extract plutonium created in the reactor. There are no natural sources of plutonium, the main ingredient of nuclear weapons and the fuel for future fast-breeder reactors.

The basic fuel for atomic stations is uranium ore, which in the case of Britain comes mainly from Canada and Namibia. Once the ore is converted to metal, the material consists mostly of uranium 238 with about 0.7 per cent of uranium 235.

The first generation Magnox reactors, which are in operation at 11 sites in Britain, use fuel rods machined from natural uranium metal.

The second generation of advanced gas-cooled reactors,

coming into play at seven power stations in the UK, need a higher proportion of uranium 235. This also applies to pressurized water reactors, such as the one planned for Sizewell.

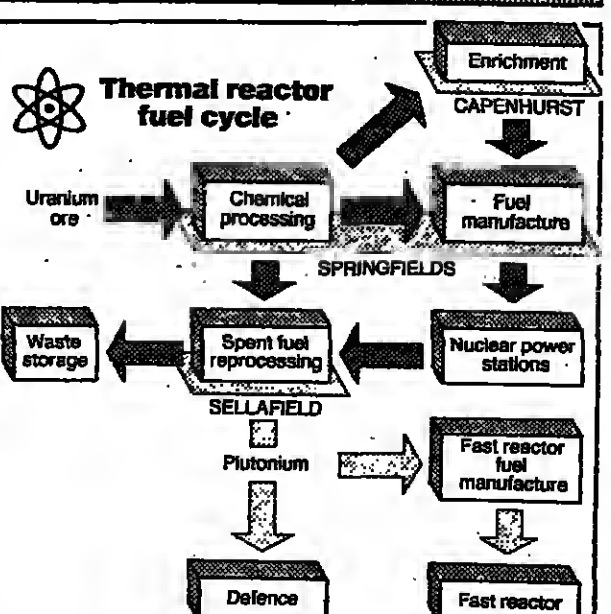
Enriched fuel with a uranium 235 content of between 3 and 4 per cent is produced at Capenhurst, Cheshire. It is prepared as uranium oxide, and is referred to as "oxide fuel".

All these factors become crucial when the reprocessing route is chosen, because of the different types of waste.

Magnox fuel rods, which form the bulk of the material so far reprocessed at Sellafield, are clad in a magnesium alloy. Oxide fuel is moulded into pellets that are encased in stainless steel or an alloy called zircaloy.

In all reactors the amount of uranium is reduced by the fission process. Fuel removed from the reactor contains about 96 per cent uranium, up to 1 per cent plutonium and between 2 and 3 per cent fission products. Reprocessing separates those three groups.

Fuel elements are kept for at



least 90 days to a cooling pond as they are too "hot" to transport. On arrival at Sellafield they are again stored under water for 12 to 18 months in the case of Magnox fuel, and for possibly years in the case of oxide fuel.

Next the metal cladding is removed and the rods are dissolved in nitric acid for chemical separation. Several classes of waste are left.

Contamination of cooling-pond water occurs with damaged fuel rods leaking. Some of the more soluble radioactive elements such as caesium 137 get into waste at this stage, and this forms most of the active elements which get into the Irish Sea.

Stainless steel and zircaloy are corroded by pond water to some extent, but less than for Magnox cladding. In general, pond waters form part of the low level of active liquid effluent produced at Sellafield.

The fuel cladding itself is a second source of waste, which is classed as an intermediate level waste and stored underwater in heavily shielded silos. Gaseous discharges consist-

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Tough discipline urged for dentists who carry out needless treatment

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Tough sanctions to stop dentists from carrying out unnecessary treatment were urged by a government appointed inquiry yesterday.

It recommended that any dentist found guilty of deliberate unnecessary treatment, or any dentist who over treated because his knowledge was out-of-date and there was evidence of "serious incompetence", should be referred to the General Dental Council, the dentists' disciplinary body.

The inquiry was set up in 1984 after allegations that some dentists were "drilling for gold", and defrauding both patients and the taxpayer.

Mr Barney Hayhoe, Minister for Health, last night promised action this year on the majority of the report's 52 recommendations.

The inquiry has concluded that there was a "small but significant and unacceptable amount of deliberate and unnecessary treatment" and "a larger amount attributable to an out-of-date treatment philosophy".

The majority of dentists were honest and provided a good service on which the public can rely, the inquiry concluded.

But there were cases of persistent and flagrant abuse. Unnecessary treatment was a significant factor in cases brought before service committees and particularly in orthodontics, the treatment of crooked or overcrowded teeth in children, "much unnecessary and costly treatment may be taking place".

The system of checking on abuse was, however, so poor that "we do not consider that dentists who are tempted to over prescribe will be deterred by any fear of detection of

punishment under the present system", the inquiry's report said.

On the basis of the evidence, the inquiry said "some dentists will have both the motive and the opportunity to prescribe unnecessary treatment".

To tackle the situation the new computer being installed by the Dental Estimates Board, the NHS paymaster for dentists, should be programmed so that dentists whose treatment was out-of-line with the majority could be identified.

The inquiry urged that systems be set up to follow individual patients so that a sudden increase or decrease in treatment when a patient changes dentists could raise suspicion. More dental reference officers, who check up on quality of treatment and whose numbers have been cut in recent years, should be appointed.

Once statistical evidence produced a clear inference that unnecessary treatment was taking place, the burden of proof should be on the dentist to show that this was not the case, the inquiry recommended.

Where a dentist's pattern of treatment was significantly out-of-line, the Dental Estimates Board should be able to insist that prior approval would be needed, for a period, for the types of treatment in question.

If the level of prescribing did not fall, or the dentists was unable to convince the board that the treatment was justified, disciplinary action would follow.

The report also made a series of recommendations to strengthen and speed up disciplinary hearings.

In addition, dentists should be required to explain the plan of treatment, giving an estimate of cost, and a publicity campaign should be mounted to emphasize to patients that any examination may not necessarily have to lead to further treatment.

The report said the issue of whether very highly paid dentists earn their fees legitimately had to be resolved. In 1984, more than 280 dentists had gross earnings over £100,000, and the highest paid received £241,590.

The figures had caused "public disquiet", but the report said it was difficult to decide whether there was a correlation between very high earnings and unnecessary treatment, although in 1982 a dentist who grossed more than £250,000 had £50,000 held back for treatment that was considered not clinically necessary.

One important measure was to insist dentists produced evidence of their own individual earnings and no longer, as at present, mixed in earnings by associates and assistants.

The report pointed out it was extremely difficult to detect unnecessary treatment afterwards, and that while only 35 cases have been put to the Dental Advisory Service in the past two years "we suspect these cases are no more than a sample of the abuse which goes on".

The British Dental Association was heartened by the finding that the vast majority of dentists were not undertaking unnecessary treatment and wholeheartedly supported the recommendations.

Report of the Committee of Inquiry into Unnecessary Dental Treatment (Stationery Office, £5.50).

Duchy acts on shabby flats

By Charles Knevit Architecture Correspondent

The Duchy of Cornwall, which manages land and property for the Prince of Wales, has commissioned one of the country's leading firms of community architects to undertake a feasibility study on a run-down block of flats in Kennington, south-east London, it was announced yesterday.

Hunt Thompson Associates, of Camden Town, north London, was appointed on the recommendation of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Newquay House, near the Oval, the Duchy's largest block, was built in 1933. Tenants, many descended from families who worked for the Duchy, had complained that 23 of the 76 flats are empty, some for several years. Rents are so low that they do not cover the cost of maintenance and people wishing to be housed have been told they will have to buy a property.

Prices for flats in the area are between £20,000 and £100,000.

The Duchy administers 600 terrace houses and flats in Kennington. The Prince has met community leaders in response to criticisms about the management of the estate, but there is a dilemma because the Duchy is a profit-making business under the Duchy of Cornwall Management Act. Properties must be sold at full commercial value.

Hunt Thompson was founded in 1969 by Mr John Thompson, Mr Bernard Hunt and Prince Richard, now Duke of Gloucester, when they completed their architectural training at Cambridge.

Mr Ben Derbyshire, recently appointed a partner and a vice-chairman of the RIBA's Community Architecture Group, will begin the study in the next few weeks.

The Prince has shown great interest in the way community architects involve users of buildings in design and management.



Mr Ben Derbyshire at Newquay House, the run-down block of flats he hopes to revive.

The study will be submitted to a committee comprising Mr Larry Robins, president of the RIBA, Mr Rod Hackney, a community architect in Macclesfield who has been advising the Duchy, and another architect yet to be appointed.

Hunt Thompson's best known community architecture project is the modernization of the Lea View Estate, Hackney, east London, which has been shortlisted for the Times/RIBA Community Enterprise Scheme.

The Duchy also manages 130,000 acres of land in the West Country. Profit in 1984 was £12 million.

Gatwick jewel theft covered by 'all risks'

A woman who had jewellery valued at £29,000 stolen at Gatwick airport was told by her insurance company that under her "all risks" policy she was not covered.

But a High Court judge said yesterday: "An all risks policy is precisely what it says."

Mr Justice Hodgson awarded Mrs Josephine Port-Rose, a mother of four, £29,000 damages, with interest and costs, against Phoenix Assurance.

He said: "If the Phoenix was right, it would be a trap for the unwary assured."

When Phoenix rejected Mrs Port-Rose's claim, her legal adviser wrote back saying "this must be construed to be the cop-out of all time". The judge said: "That was not an exaggeration. I endorse it in those terms."

In his ruling, the judge said Mrs Port-Rose and her husband, Samuel, who live in the Algarve, Portugal, where they have an estate agency, flew to Gatwick from Portugal in April 1984 with their two teenage sons.

Mrs Port-Rose left her handbag, containing the jewellery, on an airport trolley for two or three seconds while she gave directions to an elderly woman. That was the only time the bag was left unattended.

She discovered the bag was missing when one son asked for money for a rail fare.

The insurance company told Mrs Port-Rose that leaving the bag unattended was a breach of the policy conditions.

But the judge said: "If members of the public knew that, by leaving a handbag on a trolley and taking your eyes off it for two or three seconds, you are taking yourself out of insurance cover, after having paid substantial premiums, they would be quite astonished."

Satanism secrecy refused by judge

The judge in the "Satanic Swindle" trial refused yesterday to hear part of the evidence in secret.

The request had been made by the Rev John Baker, who said that lives could be in danger if evidence was given in open court about devil-worshipping objects. The danger was to the accused, Derry Mainwaring Knight, himself, and others.

There were "things too dangerous to talk about", he said.

But after hearing legal argument at Maidstone Crown Court, Judge Denison told Mr Baker, rector of Newick, East Sussex, of his decision.

The judge added: "I bear in mind what you said yesterday. If you feel there's a matter which you can't safely deal with in these circumstances you must tell me."

Mr Knight, aged 46, of Dormans Land, Surrey, is accused of swindling the rector and wealthy Christians out of £203,850, claiming he needed money to buy and destroy regalia used by a satanic circle.

Mr Baker said that Mr Knight had told him that the satanic order wanted him to raise money for certain items by blackmail. Mr Knight said he knew a bank manager who had "taken advantage" of a woman client and could be blackmailed.

Yet Knight had earlier claimed that all the money for buying artefacts had to be "cleansed", given in love by Christian sources. If it was "unclean-illegal, dishonest or criminal", the devil would still have a hold on him when the artefacts were destroyed. He later dismissed the idea of blackmail.

Mr Baker refused to give precise details of the hierarchy of satanic sects in open court. The case continues today.

Nobel nomination delights Geldof

Boh Geldof, whose charity fund for African famine relief has just topped £60 million, said yesterday he was delighted to be nominated for the 1986 Nobel peace prize.

Mr Geldof, who was nominated too late for the award last year, again urged governments to continue the initiative to end Third World hunger.

The Boomtown Rats singer, who hails from the Irish Republic, was one of 85 nominees for the prize.

Speaking in London, where he is continuing work on his autobiography, Mr Geldof said the Live Aid concerts, watched by millions throughout the world last summer, were "a beautiful shooting star."

"So to be nominated for the Nobel peace prize for such a thing is very pleasing. I am delighted."

A Band Aid spokesman said he felt certain that if Mr Geldof won the prize he would dedicate it to everybody who gave and helped the relief effort.

Netball girl loses part-time shop job

By Tim Jones

A schoolgirl who had a part-time job in a sports shop has been dismissed after being picked to play netball for the junior Welsh national team.

Nicola Smith, aged 16, was told to go when she asked for a Saturday off to play her first international against England and Scotland in a tournament at Derby.

After training yesterday, Nicola, of Chapelwood, Llanedeyrn, Cardiff, said: "I am very upset and disappointed. I could hardly believe it when I was told I was getting the sack. I thought the sports shop would be pleased to have an international working for them."

Mr Laurie Davies, manager of the Castle Sports Shop, in Cardiff, said: "She was a very, very good worker and I am sorry I had to dismiss her. But this Saturday is going to be a busy day for us with a cross country event in Cardiff and I need all my staff. She has already missed two Saturdays this year for squad sessions. I do not think I really had any alternative."

The Welsh Netball Association has written to Mr Davies asking him to reconsider his decision.

Schools join computer information network

By Bill Johnstone, Technology Correspondent

All computers in middle and secondary schools in Britain will be able to communicate with each other using equipment provided by a new £1 million government fund.

The equipment is to be funded by the Department of Trade and Industry, and will also allow school computers to connect with electronic information libraries, called databases, containing a range of educational material.

The modems, connect a school computer via a telephone line to a central computer or electronic library.

A department spokesman said: "The initial aim is to ensure that every secondary and middle school has at least one modem."

"It may also be possible to provide additional modems for special schools, teacher centres, primary schools and further education institutions."

Mast rescue attempt

Two firemen are to be recommended for bravery awards after they climbed a 370ft radio mast yesterday in an attempt to talk down a man aged 41.

The firemen, Mr Ken Smith, aged 37, of Rydal Street, Gateshead, and Mr Alan Gates, aged 30, of Chapel Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, defied freezing conditions and falling snow as they tried to persuade the man to climb down from the ice-covered British Rail mast near Birley, Tyne and Wear.

The firemen had to abandon their attempt after two hours because of the cold, but the unnamed Gateshead man came down when his son, aged 17, appealed to him through a loudhailer.

£1/2m antiques stolen

Paintings by Fatin Latour, Caspar Netscher, and Gabriel Metsu, and seventeenth-century mahogany tables are among valuables worth up to £500,000 stolen from a country house near Louth.

The house is the home of an unidentified recluse aged 89. Police said the owner disturbed four masked men who were ransacking his home but was powerless to stop them taking the antiques.

Airlines face pilot shortage crisis

By Alan Hamilton

British airlines face a serious shortage of trained pilots by 1990 unless there is a rapid increase in the intake of approved flying schools, according to a report by the industry-funded Air Transport Training Association.

The report said pilot training had been virtually moribund for the five years because of industry recession and the high cost of tuition at Britain's three Civil Aviation Authority-approved schools.

But with the aviation industry showing signs of expansion, and a high proportion of pilots due to retire within the next 15 years, the association believes the need to recruit a new generation of pilots is becoming urgent.

British Airways, Britain's largest airline, has no pilots aged under 30, while 1,200 out of its strength of 2,000 will have retired by the end of the century. Retirement age for its pilots is 55.

British Airways will begin recruiting again next year, starting with young, experienced pilots from other airlines and proceeding to the training of 100 beginners each year.

Preparing a trainee to fly a commercial jet costs a minimum of £35,000. The association believes British Airways' expansion will merely soak up experienced pilots from smaller British airlines, leaving them short of qualified personnel.

The association said that in 1980 the three principal commercial flying schools, at Hamble, Perth and Oxford, employed 150 instructors. Now there are only 38 and the Hamble school, once sponsored by British Airways, has closed.

Another former source of commercial pilots, the Royal Air Force, has largely dried up, with defence cuts reducing overall numbers and those remaining being lured by foreign commercial airlines for huge salaries.

The association called on the Government to provide more money to help to fund pilot training. It also recommended that CAA rules be changed to ensure that pilots financing their own training at private flying schools are brought within a more formal structure.



PERHAPS THIS IS WHY WE'VE WON THE BUILDING INDUSTRY'S SUPREME AWARD FOR QUALITY.

Barratt is no stranger to awards. But being this year's National Winner of the building industry's Supreme Award for quality is something very special.

The National Home Building Council - the industry's Consumer 'watchdog' - has chosen Barratt as Britain's best in its 'Pride in the Job' scheme to encourage high standards in the industry.

The competition was fierce. In fact, the council's experts inspected more than 11,000 sites throughout the U.K. to arrive at the Supreme Winner. They were looking for points such as site safety and organisation, quality of workmanship and standard of finish - in short,

overall pride in the job from site preparation to sales.

The timing of the Award couldn't have been more apt. Last year Barratt launched the Premier Collection, a completely new generation of over 50 house styles which we believe offers the finest quality available from any builder.

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PRIDE IN THE JOB

Barratt

Tommy Proctor, site supervisor, Barratt Developments, Charlotte Square, Newcastle upon Tyne, National Pride in the Job Award Winner

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Taxpayers cannot pay more to BL

PM's QUESTIONS

Every family in the United Kingdom has contributed the equivalent of £200 to British Leyland and such a situation could not continue, Mrs Margaret Thatcher said in a speech in the House of Commons. She said that the Government was seeking the best future for Land Rover, Freight Rover and for the whole of BL, and the best future for the country through the extension of trade and business.

The issue was first raised by Mr Mark Fisher (Stoke-on-Trent Central, Lab) who asked: Will the Prime Minister tell the House what she first knew of the deadline of March 4 for firm offers to acquire parts of BL?

Amid Labour protests, Mrs Thatcher commented that she had nothing to add to what she had already said the matter.

Mr Jeremy Hanley (Richmond and Barnes, C) British companies made acquisitions to the tune of £1 billion in the United States last year. Therefore, acquisitions in the United Kingdom by the United States is by no means a one way street.

Mrs Thatcher: Yes, I saw the very detailed account in the papers today of inward and outward investment.

Figures published in *The Financial Times* show that British companies acquired 160 businesses in the United States last year and 142 in 1984. I hope that acquisition by British companies in the United States was welcome to the United States.

Mr Kinnoch: What specific assurances are being sought from potential purchasers of the constituent parts of BL and in addition what means are being adopted to ensure that such assurances are enforced in contracts.

Mrs Thatcher: Mr Channon, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has indicated some of the assurances being sought, assurances of the kind that the

British nature of Land Rover in particular and Range Rover should be honoured and, of course, certain assurances on sourcing.

Mr Kinnoch: Can she convince us that "honoured" is the equivalent of binding assurances that actually will determine the future of an essential part of the British auto industry? What did the Under Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (Lord Lucas of Chilworth) mean yesterday in the House of Lords when he said: "In respect of all such assurances in regard to British content, trade marks, names and the like, in law there is a time limitation?"

Mrs Thatcher: Lord Lucas of Chilworth was perfectly clear in what he said in the House of Lords. I do not understand why Mr Kinnoch finds difficulty with it.

Mr Kinnoch: Does "best future" as defined by her include a binding enforceable assurance?

Mrs Thatcher: He must see long enforceable assurances can be guaranteed but we are legal advice on that. That is what I am saying.

Mr Richard Pagar (South West Hertfordshire, C) It was well known to MPs and by unions that discussions between General Motors and BL were taking place months before Christmas. Would she like to comment on the fact that either the Labour party is ill-informed, or they have waited for the right moment for political capital and are not worried about the future of BL?

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New statistics to provide better picture

EMPLOYMENT

In order to ensure greater accuracy Lord Young of Graffham, Secretary of State for Employment, said in a statement to the House of Lords, he had agreed that the compilation and publication of the monthly employment statistics would take place some two weeks later than at present.

This is not a major change in presentation but (he said), the improved estimates will allow a more complete and accurate picture to be given of the latest labour market development.

Lord Stoddart of Swinton (Lab) said the statement appeared to have been forced out of him by Mr John Prescott in the House of Commons who Lord Young of Graffham said was unwilling to meet in face-to-face discussion on the BBC Breakfast Time that morning.

Why did he not make a proper statement in the first place (he said) instead of attempting to slip the matter through by means of a written question?

Such action shows complete insensitivity (he continued) and it would appear the Government has learnt nothing from the Westland affair and British Leyland where their attempts at covering up have led to lack of support by the public and a catastrophic drop in support in the country.

The Paymaster General in the House of Commons said he had not been aware that No 10 was going to brief the press on the subject and he had not approved of it doing so, but had Lord Young of Graffham known of the briefing and if he had why did he not tell his colleagues in the House of Commons.

In the statement (said Lord Stoddart of Swinton) he says this is not a major change but clearly the government sees the importance of employment figures as a means of hiding a grave unemployment crisis.

No doubt the changes were being made not really for statistical purposes but for political purposes. The lauded figures were part of a £1 million publicity campaign launched by the government to brainwash the public into believing the unemployment crisis was less grave than it really was.

Lady Seear (Lab) said it was extraordinary that the Secretary of State had not found time to make the statement to the House rather than leaving peers to find out by reading it in the press.

It was extraordinary, since there was a highly competent

Department of Employment, that so many changes needed to be made in the statistics could not be regarded as good statistical practice.

Lord Young of Graffham, said it was seldom that he felt angry in the House but he had to refuse every stricture from Lord Stoddart of Swinton.

Before he mentioned allegations of the Paymaster General talking of leaks from No 10 he should look at the record which showed that no such comment had been made because there had been no such thing.

At the Breakfast Time broadcast, Mr Prescott was asked whether, if he were Secretary of State and his statisticians advised him about the need for changes in statistics he would accept that advice, and he had said that he would accept a justified point that he was prepared to accept.

Knowing of the great interest in both houses on employment statistics, he had decided to announce the changes by written question but there had not been time for him to make a statement to the House of Lords.

Referring to the alleged £1 million campaign, he said it must be a very ineffective campaign because he knew nothing of it.

The statement on changes to the unemployment figures was repeated, amid laughter and loud Labour interruptions, in the Commons, by Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Paymaster General.

Mr John Prescott, chief Opposition spokesman on the statement, said the eight-line paragraph was an insult to MP's intelligence. (Labour cheers).

One is forced (he said) to read the library statement to see the real intent and impact of the further fiddling of the unemployment figures.

Mr Clarke said Mr Prescott should take the unlikely step of imagining himself as paymaster general. The statisticians in the department said they had discovered an unacceptable error in the monthly figures and asked for permission to correct that and this was given.

It is really, saying to the House (he continued) that were he secretary of state for employment he would say to the statisticians: "No, do not correct this mistake; carry on making what you regard as an error" he would not say that.

This morning on breakfast television he was asked that question and had to agree that he would have made the selfsame change. I do not want to advise him on how to behave to civil servants were he ever to take office.

In the statement (said Lord Stoddart of Swinton) he says this is not a major change but clearly the government sees the importance of employment figures as a means of hiding a grave unemployment crisis.

No doubt the changes were being made not really for statistical purposes but for political purposes. The lauded figures were part of a £1 million publicity campaign launched by the government to brainwash the public into believing the unemployment crisis was less grave than it really was.

Lady Seear (Lab) said it was extraordinary that the Secretary of State had not found time to make the statement to the House rather than leaving peers to find out by reading it in the press.

It was extraordinary, since there was a highly competent

Department of Employment, that so many changes needed to be made in the statistics could not be regarded as good statistical practice.

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Hopes for increased security cooperation

ULSTER

The Prime Minister said she had agreed with the Irish Prime Minister, Dr Garret FitzGerald, yesterday that the Anglo-Irish agreement must be implemented.

Mrs Thatcher said in the Commons at question time that she also hoped for increased security cooperation with the Republic of Ireland. She said she was very much welcomed Dr FitzGerald's decision to sign the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism.

Everything possible would be done to ensure that the agreement on structures of consultation with them, and she hoped the SDLP would soon honour its commitment to enter into talks about devolution which would put it under more power into a devolved Assembly.

Mrs Thatcher was replying to Mr Mervyn Rees (Leeds South and Morley, Lab), a former

Home Secretary to chair crime prevention study

LAW AND ORDER

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, told the Commons at question time that he is chairing a study on crime prevention in the summer of the next year.

Mr Hurd said the study would be a major study of crime prevention and we are working hard to encourage these.

Mr David Maclean (Penrith and the Border, C) said the whole community must be involved. What steps were being taken to get the message across that it was necessary to involve insurance companies, motor manufacturers, builders and small community groups?

Mr Hurd: An excellent point. One of the results of the No 10 seminar was an agreement that there should be a British standard for car security to be prepared by the British Standards Institution precisely to deal with this point.

Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, will be arranging for the publication of the letter the Prime Minister's office has sent to all participants in the so-called crime seminar last month from which it will be plain to anyone who reads it that the Government is not taking one firm action for crime prevention and not spending one penny of new money on crime prevention? It was less a seminar than an episode from *Spitting Image*.

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Thatcher says she will stay as leader

Mrs Thatcher repeated during question time in the Commons her aim of leading the Conservative party to a third election victory.

Mr Nicholas Winterston (Macclesfield, C) asked: Would she assure those of us on the Conservative benches who honourably disagree from time to time with Government policy but do not question her courageous leadership or determination to restore the economic and political power of the UK that she will continue to respond robustly to the by-election policy but not to the Opposition parties and lead the Conservatives into a third successful general election?

Mrs Thatcher: Yes, on the same excellent policies which secured the first two victories.

Mr Dennis Skinner (Bolsover, Lab) now that the Prime Minister in her recent broadcast has become very concerned about the low party vote and the levels of taxation, will she take the necessary steps to abolish the poll tax?

Mrs Thatcher: There is no poll tax what we have proposed is a community charge which will be levied on every citizen. The Metropolitan Police had made it clear that if fresh evidence came to light it would be investigated.

Realistic strategy to deal with crime

HOME OFFICE

A major initiative to deploy the unemployed on crime prevention work in the Community Programme was to be undertaken by Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary said during Commons questions.

The Government's strategy for fighting crime was practical and realistic and the Government would pursue vigorously proposals arising from the Home Office's crime prevention seminar.

They will continue to provide the police with resources and powers to help them in their task, and the court with adequate powers to deal with offenders.

Mr William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab): Violent crime has increased more than 60 per cent under this Government. Does Mr Hurd not regret the way the Tory party and Tory Government deceived the electorate in 1979 and 1983 elections by pretending there are simple solutions to these problems? The scale of crime was real. The deprivation as a result of crumbling housing stock and the massive increase in unemployment are important factors and unless the Government realises these hard facts the figures will continue to escalate.

Mr Hurd said he did not believe there were simple answers to crime. He said that what was needed was a practical and realistic strategy to deal with it.

There was endless debate about the root causes of crime. He agreed that social problems, particularly those of the inner cities, needed to be tackled and the Government was doing this.

Mr Timothy Yee (South Suffolk, C) said that whatever theoretical research might purport to show, commonsense suggested that people were influenced by what they saw on television. And if young people, particularly, were subjected to a diet of violent television programmes there was likely to be an increase in violent behaviour.

Mr Hurd agreed. Commonsense pointed in that direction, he said. This was why he was anxious that the broadcasting authorities, in addition to the admirable existing guidelines, should exert themselves to make sure they were fully responsible.

Mr Donald Dixon (Jarrow, Lab) recalled that a constituent aged 15 had bought a lethal cross-bow. The Home Office had said it was an important matter which was kept under review. Had anything been done about it? Would the Government bring in legislation to prohibit the sale of these bows?

Mr Hurd agreed there was public concern. The Government was looking urgently to see if anything sensible could be done.

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Police attack on youths 'damaging'

Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, admitted in the Commons that the attack on five youths by two police officers in North London two years ago was deeply damaging to the Metropolitan Police and would continue to be so unless and until it was cleared up.

He was questioned over the incident by Mr Christopher Frisbury (Stratford, Lab) and Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs.

Mr Kaufman: There is a grave danger that unless the men responsible for this unwarranted attack are discovered and dealt with there will be an increase in public anxiety and the good name of the Metropolitan Police will be sullied.

Will Mr Hurd make it clear that men who shield criminals within the Metropolitan Police collude in the crime of these men? Is it appropriate for him to consider whether such men, unless they assist in discovering the criminals, should remain members of the police force?

Mr Hurd said the burden of proof was exactly the same for police officers as for any other citizen. The Metropolitan Police had made it clear that if fresh evidence came to light it would be investigated.

Progress in talks about Cyprus

CYPRUS

Mrs Thatcher described her recent talks with Mr Cypriac Ozur, the Turkish Prime Minister as very good and said she believed he was making enormous strides in improving human rights in his country.

They had discussed the situation in Cyprus, she said, and they hoped both parts of the island which were currently artificially partitioned would cooperate with Mr Perez De Cuellar of the United Nations who was seeking a satisfactory solution to the Cyprus problem.

Mr Hurd said he was replying to Mr Richard Hickmet (Gloucestershire, C) who had asked her to comment on Anglo-Turkish relations following the Cyprus problem.

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Court of Appeal

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Tenants' protection to stay

HOUSING

The Government was not proposing in this Parliament to introduce major legislation to recast the Rent Act, Mr John Peet, Minister for Housing, Urban Planning and Construction, said during a Commons debate on the treatment of private tenants.

The Government was ready to listen and ready to promote arguments about what could and should be done. The Government had taken no decisions on what form any legislation should take to reduce controls over new tenancies.

We have no intention (he said) of removing the protection enjoyed by existing tenants. That was one mistake made in 1975; the removal of statutory controls from existing tenancies at the top end of the market led to widespread evictions by the voluntary landlords, those who were not landlords by choice

and took the opportunity to obtain vacant possession and to let up.

But if we want in future to encourage a private sector to provide a "united" accommodation available for renting, and to invest in accommodation for rent, it is essential that for new letting, rents should provide economic returns.

Local authorities estimated that in England 545,000 private sector tenancies were empty in April 1985, nearly 100,000 of them in London where the problem of homelessness was greatest. Many of those homes could be let to people who were alive and well in 1984, were not inhibited by the effect of the Rent Act.

An Opposition motion asserting the right to buy from a non-residential absentee landlord, the right to manage for both tenants and leaseholders of flats and calling for a review of rent regulation so as to close loopholes in the Rent Act, was

rejected by 258 votes to 177—Government majority, 81.

A Government amendment asserting the need for a healthy and thriving private rented sector with an adequate supply of sound homes to rent as being in the best interests of tenants and landlords and those looking for accommodation; and asserting the need for improved statutory safeguards to ensure proper management of privately-owned blocks of flats, was agreed by 228 votes to 150—Government majority, 78.

Rachmanism, the exploitation by landlords of tenants in dilapidated private property, was alive and well in 1984, said Jeffrey Rooper, Opposition spokesman on housing, said, when opening the debate.

He said the rights of two million families in private tenancies needed strengthening. Many of them did not have a secure home. Assured tenancies applied only to newly constructed dwellings.

Law Report February 21 1986

No remedy in Berlin firing range nuisance claim

Regina v Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Ex parte Travnik and Another.

Before Lord Justice May, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Stocker (February 18).

The contents of certificates issued by the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs under section 40(3)(a) of the Crown Proceedings Act 1947 and section 21 of the State Immunity Act 1978 were conclusive evidence of any matters certified in them.

It followed that any application for judicial review of such a certificate, although not precluded by the provisions of either Act, would, if based on the proposition that that which had been certified was so clearly wrong that the certificate had to be a nullity, be bound to fail because no extrinsic evidence could be called.

The Court of Appeal so held, dismissing two appeals by the applicants. Quia Travnik 21 and Louise Hancock, from the determination by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court on April 16, 1985 (*The Times* April 27, 1985), of three preliminary issues ordered to be tried in connection with their applications for judicial review of the certificates issued by the Secretary of State on November 3, 1984, and November 1, 1984, under the 1947 Act, and on September 17, 1984, under the 1978 Act.

Mr John MacDonald, QC and Mr Owen Davies for the ap-

General Gordon Lennox, the British military commander in Berlin, as defendants (*Travnik v Ministry of Defence* (*The Times* April 19, 1984; [1985] 1 WLR 532).

Subsequently, the Court of Appeal allowed the Attorney General's appeal against the joint order (*Travnik v Lennox and Another* (*The Times* December 14, 1984; [1985] 1 WLR 532). Major General Lennox's application to set aside the proceedings against him had yet to be determined.

On September 17, 1984, the Foreign Secretary issued the second certificate, under section 21 of the State Immunity Act 1978, which provided that such a certificate was "conclusive evidence on any question (a) whether any... territory is a constituent part of a federal state... or as to the person or persons to be regarded (for the purposes of Part I of the Act) as the head or government of a state...".

The certificate stated that Germany was a state and that the persons to be regarded as its government included the Kommandatura of Berlin, including Major General Lennox.

The third certificate, issued on November 1, 1984, was in the same terms as the first, issued under the 1947 Act, except that it referred to the action as amended to include the Attorney General and Major General Lennox.

On December 17, 1984, Mr Justice Nicholl gave leave to issue proceedings for judicial review of the certificates and ordered preliminary issues to be tried as to: "whether the fact that the certificates are... conclusive as to the matters referred to... precludes judicial review of the certificates in relation to the matter certified and renders inadmissible all evidence... in contradiction of the terms of the certificates".

Lord Justice May said that judicial review did not lie in respect of the certificates, which precluded the admission of any evidence in respect of the matters certified in contradiction of the certificates.

On appeal, the applicants sought principally to attack the two certificates under the 1947 Act. They drew attention to the words "for the purposes of this Act" in section 40(3)(a) and submitted that the certificate was not conclusive as to proceedings for judicial review.

Further, it was submitted that in the Chancery Division proceedings, a certificate could only be conclusive if it was a valid one; it was for the courts and not the Secretary of State to determine whether a certificate was valid: see *Anisimic Ltd v Foreign Compensation Commission* ([1969] 2 AC 147, 170) per Lord Reid.

There were numerous matters which, if the applicants were allowed to refer to them in judicial review proceedings, would be more than sufficient to show that the statement in each certificate was so obviously incorrect that it had to be a nullity.

But in his Lordship's view, the Divisional Court had reached the correct

Test for upsetting industrial tribunal

Neale v Hereford and Worcester County Council.

Where an industrial tribunal had done its job of finding facts, applying the relevant law and reaching the conclusions to which its findings and the experience of its members led it, it would not be open that an appellate tribunal or court could legitimately say that its conclusion offended reason or was one to which no reasonable tribunal could have come.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice May, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Stocker) so stated on February 18, allowing the employer's appeal from the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

LORD JUSTICE MAY said that an industrial tribunal was in many ways an industrial jury. It knew its area, each member had substantial experience of industrial problems, and heard that type of case regularly. When it had not erred in law, neither the Employment Appeal Tribunal nor the Court of Appeal should disturb its decision unless one could say effect: "My goodness, that was certainly wrong".

LORD JUSTICE RALPH GIBSON said that it would be unwise and potentially unfair for a tribunal to rely on matters which occurred to members after the hearing, not having been mentioned or treated as relevant by the parties, without the party against whom the point was raised being given the opportunity to deal with it, unless the tribunal could be entirely sure that the point was so clear that the party could not make any useful comment in explanation.

A tribunal was entitled to, and should, have regard to a point which had not been mentioned or to which little or no weight had been attached, according to their own assessment of it, but in forming that assessment it should be careful and proper attention to the course of the hearing and the way in which and the extent to which a point had been made and relied upon.

Time not relevant

O'Shea v Immediate Sound Services Ltd.

Periods of time applicable in the High Court before cases were struck out for want of prosecution were not relevant in actions in industrial tribunals, Mr Justice Popplewell said on February 13, sitting in the Employment Appeal Tribunal with Mr H. Robson and Mrs M. Sunderland, when dismissing an appeal relating to an industrial tribunal chairman's decision to strike

Court of Appeal

the point, the matters certified in the certificates were "matters of state" relating to questions of recognition arising in the conduct of foreign relations and, since they were not reviewable by the courts, see *Council of Civil Service Unions v Minister for the Civil Service* ([1985] AC 374).

Finally, his Lordship agreed with the view expressed by the Divisional Court that section 14 of the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1971 did not apply to the issue of the certificates by the Foreign Secretary in the instant case.

It followed that the preliminary issues had to be answered in the Secretary of State's favour and the appeal should be dismissed.

Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Stocker delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Seiffert Sedley Williams, Treasury Solicitor.

Correction

seminar
Realistic strategy to deal with crime
HOME OFFICE

Police to recruit ethnic minorities

By Peter Evans
Home Affairs Correspondent

Police in troubled Handsworth, Birmingham, plan to recruit more officers from ethnic minorities by touring the area and knocking on doors.

West Midlands Police hopes that a spin-off of the £60,000 recruitment campaign will be the prevention of riots such as that which left two people dead last September.

Senior officers are concerned because only 95, or 1.5 per cent of the Force's 6,650 members, come from the ethnic minorities.

Mr David Gerty, assistant chief constable, said the recruiting drive, backed by a leaflet campaign and advertising, would begin soon in a pilot area in Birmingham. He expected officers to go into Handsworth during the summer.

The plan for the campaign has been drawn up by Chief Inspector Keith Newell after studying police recruitment in New York. An officer from there will travel to Birmingham to advise West Midlands Police when the campaign starts.

The present West Midlands percentage of 1.5 was not enough, Mr Gerty said. Ten per cent or more was the aim. Meanwhile, a report by West Midlands County Council said yesterday that Handsworth faces the possibility of more riots.

The £10,000 report, which was compiled by five black people, led by Mr Herman Duseley, deputy chief executive of Lambeth Council, says that deep-rooted racism was the real cause of last September's multi-million pound riot.

Black people in Britain feel they are living under a form of apartheid, the report says. Birmingham appears to be the "capital of race discrimination in Britain", with prejudice in housing, social services, education and employment.

Official publication of the report, due today, has been postponed, but details were leaked.

Mr Geoffrey Dear, West Midlands Chief Constable, says in another report, however, that the riots erupted because drugs barons in Handsworth had been angered by new policing policies.

Cartoons controversy Scholars at loggerheads over Rubens

By Tim Jones

The 174 members of the Court of Governors of the National Museum of Wales will turn up today for a special meeting hoping to learn that four huge cartoons are the work of Rubens. They are likely to be disappointed.

It is the latest turn in a controversy which has tainted the reputation of the museum since the cartoons were bought for £1.25 million in mysterious circumstances seven years ago. They were intended to enhance a collection which had been said to be "seriously inferior" to those in other cities.

The three art experts appointed to investigate the background of the cartoons, collectively known as "The History of Aeneas", are understood to differ over the vital issue—were they, or were they not, painted by Rubens?

Leading Rubens scholars have already disagreed publicly over the authenticity of the cartoons and earlier this month Dr Peter Cannon-Brookes, the museum's keeper of art, was suspended on full pay while an investigation is held into the running of his department.

The museum, which mortgaged two years of its purchasing power to buy the cartoons, refuses to say who last owned them. Vast paintings on paper, used by weavers as a pattern for tapestries, they were bought from the Heim Gallery in London, which guaranteed that good title to the pictures was passing and that no export licence controls had been contravened.

As part of the deal, the museum gave an undertaking to the gallery that it would not disclose for 10 years the name of the owners, said to be of

distinction in the Austro-Hungarian empire.

That secrecy has fuelled widely circulating claims, ranging from the proud boast that the cartoons are among the greatest art discoveries of the post-war period to the contemptuous dismissal of them by one museum governor as "the most costly pieces of dirty old paper in history".

Dr Cannon-Brookes, aged 46, has been staunch in his defence of the 9ft by 4ft cartoons.

He has recently been in Italy, consolidating his research into their authenticity and hopes soon to publish a booklet which he believes will fully vindicate him.

However, it is expected, he is present at today's meeting, he must be prepared to defend his judgement against at least two of the "Three Wise Men", who have spent months on their own research.

Sir Oliver Millar, Keeper of the Queen's Paintings, and Dr Christopher Brown, his deputy keeper and curator of Dutch and Flemish paintings at the National Gallery, are said to have come out against the Rubens attribution, while Dr John Rowlands, keeper of prints and drawings at the British Museum, is thought to believe the cartoons are indeed by the hand of the master.

The majority evidence is unlikely to dent the conviction of Dr Cannon-Brookes, who is known to have traced the cartoons to within 10 years of Rubens's death in 1640.

He has suggested that the issue had been fomented by the anti-apartheid lobby, which is angry about his two touring exhibitions of South Africa.



Dr Cannon-Brookes (top) is at the centre of the controversy. Sir Oliver Millar (above) is understood to reject the attribution of the paintings to Rubens. Right: One of the disputed cartoons which have set scholars at odds.



The Burlington Magazine carried the differing views of two leading Rubens scholars about the cartoons in its issue of March 1983. Dr Julius Held, the American Rubens scholar, said in the magazine that he believed they were painted by a seventeenth century follower of the master, possibly Thomas Willeboirts Bosschaert. But Professor Michael Jaffe, director of the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, wrote: "They are their own documents, the brilliance of their execution is self evident, and nothing can be seen in them which is not in Rubens's own hand."

Learning a democratic approach to politics

By George Hill

A book designed to "export parliament to schools" was launched yesterday with the backing of Mr Gerry Neale, Conservative MP for Cornwall North.

Designed for students taking courses such as civic education, or visiting Parliament, it gives a non-party account of the workings of the parliamentary system, and encourages participation in class

discussion, mock elections and a mock Parliament.

Finding Out What Happens When I Vote is the latest in a series of colourfully designed booklets for schools about social issues such as smoking, drugs and nuclear energy.

"We have worked through the booklet with a panel of teachers to make sure it is totally non-political and only deals with the mechanics of parliament", Mr Neale said.

£800,000 grant challenged

Solihull and Walsall district councils launched an attempt in the High Court in London yesterday to stop the doomed West Midlands Council spending £800,000 earmarked for Birmingham International airport on grants to voluntary bodies.

The two councils, which take over responsibility from West Midlands Council when it is abolished next month, are asking Mr Justice McPherson to rule that the decision to spend the money was unlawful.

Mr David Keene, QC, for the councils, told the judge that because of government rate support grant penalties for overspending, the total cost to ratepayers could be £4 million.

He said that although the West Midlands Council had agreed to consult their successors over how the money should be spent, the two councils which will take over the running of the airport had a legitimate expectation to have been consulted over the transfer in the first place.

The failure to do that was "unreasonable" and a breach of West Midlands' duty to ratepayers, Mr Keene said.

Mr Konrad Schiemann, QC, for West Midlands County Council, denied that the authority had acted unlawfully. He said consultation would take place, although West Midlands was under no legal duty to do so.

The two councils' action came after the hearing of a similar application against the Greater Manchester Council. Judgement was reserved.

'Threat to the arts' outcry over Bill

By David Hewson
Arts Correspondent

Film and television industry leaders yesterday condemned the private member's Bill to amend the Obscene Publications Act as a threat to the nation's artistic life.

Mr Michael Grade, controller of BBC1, said if Mr Winston Churchill's Bill became law, television series such as the *Forsyte Saga*, the *Jewel in the Crown*, *Monty Python* and the television *King Lear*, could not be shown.

Mr David Attenborough, the broadcaster, claimed the proposals would black out all news coverage of violence in South Africa. The Bill planned to outlaw a "laundry list" of acts which it was now possible to see on the television screen. "I have to tell Mr Churchill that the preying mantis does four of these things at the same time".

The proposed changes would extend the Act to television, introduce the list of banned practices, and place the onus on producers to prove artistic merit.

Mr John Mortimer, the barrister and writer who created *Rumpole of the Bailey*, said it was a "silly Bill." A play showing masturbation could lead to a three-year jail sentence for its producer, he said.

Mr Michael Winner, film producer and director, forecast the changes would affect art galleries, museums, opera, ballet and theatre.

Mr Grade said the Bill was the result of an attempt by Mrs Mary Whitehouse to impose her "narrow Victorian vision on society".

Multiple occupants 'at risk in squalor'

By Christopher Warman
Property Correspondent

About 1.25 million people in England and Wales are living in multiple occupied houses, a London conference organized by the Institution of Environmental Health Officers was told yesterday.

Mr Roy Emerson, president, said local authority figures showed that 82 per cent of the estimated 300,000 such houses are unsatisfactory.

According to the Fire Research Station, the risk of fire is 10 times greater than in other types of housing. "Furthermore, a large number of the houses are literally falling apart, have inadequate heating, lack proper cooking and washing facilities, and are badly managed by landlords who are happy to collect rents but less than enthusiastic about meeting their responsibilities to their tenants", he said.

Most tenants are vulnerable members of society, including ethnic minority groups, low-income families, the elderly and the young and single.

Department of the Environment statistics show there are an estimated 334,000 shared houses in England and Wales, of which 145,000 are in Greater London. A total of 35 councils had more than 2,500 shared houses, of which 18 were in London. Kensington and Chelsea led with 16,700, and there are 13,800 in Lewisham, 10,200 in Haringey, and 10,000 in Leeds.

The DoE said that 176,000 houses, or 53 per cent, were unsatisfactory.

Anthrax fears over pack of foxhounds

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

A pack of foxhounds in north Devon is being checked for anthrax after being fed an infected pony carcass.

The pony was one of two that died of the disease, possibly catching spores from ground where infected cattle were buried more than 30 years ago.

The pack has been treated with antibiotics, but is still being closely watched.

Ministry of Agriculture officials are also investigating another anthrax outbreak near Ilfracombe, eight miles away. Anthrax spores can remain active almost indefinitely unless deliberately destroyed. The normal practice is to burn infected carcasses. The field where the ponies were kept is to be disinfected.

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Russia puts huge space station into orbit as congress curtain-raiser

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The contrast in the space programmes of the superpowers has been highlighted by the Soviet launch of a giant, new-generation space station as a spectacular curtain-raiser to next week's Communist Party congress.

The successful launch of the station, complete with six docking positions, came just over three weeks after the American shuttle disaster.

Western experts here claimed that the new craft underlined the steady progress in the Soviet manned space programme, in contrast to the more dramatic achievements and failures of the Americans.

As part of the Kremlin's campaign to depict the Soviet Union as the leader in the peaceful exploration of space, the station is called "Mir", the Russian word for peace.

According to Mr Alexei Leonov, the deputy head of the Soviet cosmonaut training centre, the launch represented the start of the transition from research to "large-scale production activities" in space.

Although at present unmanned, Mir is intended as a base for a permanently manned complex orbiting the Earth.

Describing the facilities on

board the new space laboratory, Mr Leonov said that conditions for the cosmonauts — now undergoing a special training programme — would include separate cabins, and even individual desks and armchairs.

He added that it would only be possible to determine how long the station could remain in orbit after the completion of its first flight.

The launch caused wide interest among Western observers here. Apart from the technological aspects, the timing and manner of the launch was seen as a public relations triumph for the Kremlin very much in the mould of the new image being presented by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the party leader.

The Soviet Union, which put the first man in space in 1961, has long declared its aim of creating a permanently manned station in space.

Salyut 7, the Soviet Union's other space station, has been in orbit since 1982, but Mr Leonov explained yesterday that it was too small for the plans now being implemented by Soviet experts.

The last Soviet mission ended prematurely in November last year, when cosmonaut

Vladimir Vasyutin was struck down by a mystery illness and had to be brought back to Earth.

Study of subsequent published accounts of the aborted mission convinced diplomats that the cosmonaut had suffered what amounted to a nervous crack-up in space.

PARIS: Western Europe resumes its interrupted challenge to the United States for the lucrative satellite market tomorrow, with the 16th launch of an Ariane rocket from Kourou in French Guiana (AFP reports).

Like Nasa, the European Space Agency has had its own problems. Tomorrow's Ariane launch will be the first since a failed launch on September 13.

Then, scientists had to blow up the rocket after nine minutes 52 seconds, because it strayed from its course.

But European hopes are high again. Tomorrow Ariane will carry an ambitious first French Earth-observation satellite developed with Swedish and Belgian participation, and a Swedish scientific satellite to study the magnetic sphere and the aurora borealis.

Spectrum, page 10



A star in Paris: Bette Davis, aged 77, the award-winning American film actress, at a Paris press conference yesterday to mark a season of her films which begins there tomorrow.

Middle East peace setback Moderate leaders reject Husain call to abandon PLO

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

Moderate West Bank leaders refused yesterday to join King Husain of Jordan in abandoning the Palestine Liberation Organization as a partner in the search for Middle East peace.

He put an end to a year-long search for a joint negotiating position with the PLO by saying he could no longer cooperate politically with it "until their word is their bond".

He saved this announcement for the end of a 200-minute televised speech, which finished just in time for every east Jerusalem newspaper to write editorials denouncing his decision.

In his speech the King called on "Palestinians in the occupied territories and the diaspora, as well as Arab capitals and organizations" to take over the job of finding a solution from the PLO.

He tried to speak directly to the people of the occupied territories, praising their courage in staying on their land and urging them to "stand tall". He was clearly appealing to them to come forward and help him to seek peace without the PLO.

Mr Hanna Simona, the editor of *Al-Fajr*, is a Palestinian who is prepared to negotiate and who was accepted by the US as a potential delegate to a peace conference because of his public stand against terrorism.

But yesterday he was sure that no one would accept the King's offer, because, he said, only the PLO was prepared to fight for the right of Palestinians to have their own nation.

Most significantly, his words were echoed by Mr Zafir Masri. He was appointed mayor of the city of Nablus at the end of last year as part of an experiment by Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, on handing over power at local level to responsible Arab leaders as part of a gradual process of devolution.

He was chosen because he had no PLO background, and has strong connections with Jordan, where his nephew is Foreign Minister. But yesterday he refused to consider doing anything without PLO backing. They were the only ones who looked after Palestinian rights, he said.

The only well-known Palestinian publicly prepared to consider what the King has

said was Mr Elias Freij, Mayor of Bethlehem. Palestinians would now have to face up to reality, he said.

The solution would have to be thrashed out between the Americans, the Israelis and the people of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Mr Freij, however, is considered an Uncle Tom figure, although Israel regards him as one of the few Arabs prepared to defy PLO terror threats and to seek out for moderate policies.

Leading Israeli politicians were pleased but not over-optimistic about the King's statement. Mr Peres said he was not surprised because the main stumbling block to peace had always been the PLO. Now a new road would have to be found.

Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Defence Minister, was more enthusiastic. He said that a golden opportunity had now appeared. The Palestinians had a historic chance to take their destiny in their own hands.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said King Husain's speech merely marked the end of a wasted year in which nothing was done because of a futile attempt to enrol the PLO.

The spokesman said the PLO were like zombies and it was important to try to eliminate their influence in the occupied territories if there were to be any chance of peace.

The Foreign Ministry position remains that the only realistic way ahead is for direct negotiations with Jordan without any PLO involvement of any kind.

The King, however, is not seen as having slammed the door in the face of the PLO. "The King always keeps many doors open," the spokesman said.

Israel is now going through the speech in detail, checking what it sees as many factual errors in the King's analysis.

The US is likely to be asked to clarify its actions as described by the King, because they are at variance with Israel's own understanding of the facts.

This potential dispute between Israel and the US may make it more difficult for the two countries to trust each other as fully as in the past.

Israel extends hunt for kidnapped soldiers

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem

Another Israeli was killed in south Lebanon yesterday after troops searching for two kidnapped soldiers ran into resistance from local militia.

A fierce battle, using tanks and artillery, pinned down men of the Finnish battalion serving with Unifil (UN Interim Force in Lebanon) and skirmishes raged along the 10-mile front and deep into Lebanese territory where the search continued.

Major-General Ori Orr, of Israel's Northern Command, said there was no proof the missing men had been executed despite claims by an anonymous caller to a Beirut newspaper saying he was from the Islamic Resistance Movement.

General Orr said he was confident the kidnapers had not been able to take their hostages out of the area and

the search would continue — especially in response to demands by Islamic groups.

There have been no arrests since Monday night when two men, thought to have been some of the kidnapers, were captured. But large caches of arms and ammunition have been discovered, convincing the Israelis to continue searching.

The search is taking on political significance and Amal Shia militia leaders, who control the area north of the buffer zone, fear the Israelis may extend the zone as they search further into Amal territory.

UN headquarters at Naqoura have heard of villagers being ill-treated by Israeli army units — reminiscent of the iron fist policy that caused Israel's unpopularity before its withdrawal last year.

Un-Texan welcome for Prince

From Trevor Fishlock, Austin, Texas

One old Texan was determined to be unimpressed by the Prince of Wales. "Why," he said, gazing into the television camera which was promising him his moment of fame if only he would dare to be outrageous, "he is no better than I am. We both put our pants on the same way — one leg at a time".

Most of Texan, however, is impressed, and the Prince is drawing large crowds during his progress through the state. Countless women confess themselves weak at the knees.

Houston gave the Prince a worthy but rather dull day, quite out of keeping with the bawdier character of that astonishing, swaggering, city. He visited a refinery and an old people's home.

The city laid on the inevitable dinner, and the Prince spent another evening with wealthy Texans.

The food was notably un-Texan — not a bowl of chilli nor a barbecued rib in sight. Strong frontiersmen who gnawed T-bones in their cribs found themselves addressing vegetable pâté and raspberry custard, and wondering if Texan was falling victim to creeping socialism, or in other ways going to the dogs.

Queen in Nepal, page 9

Ozal takes firm line on Cyprus

By Nicholas Ashford, Diplomatic Correspondent

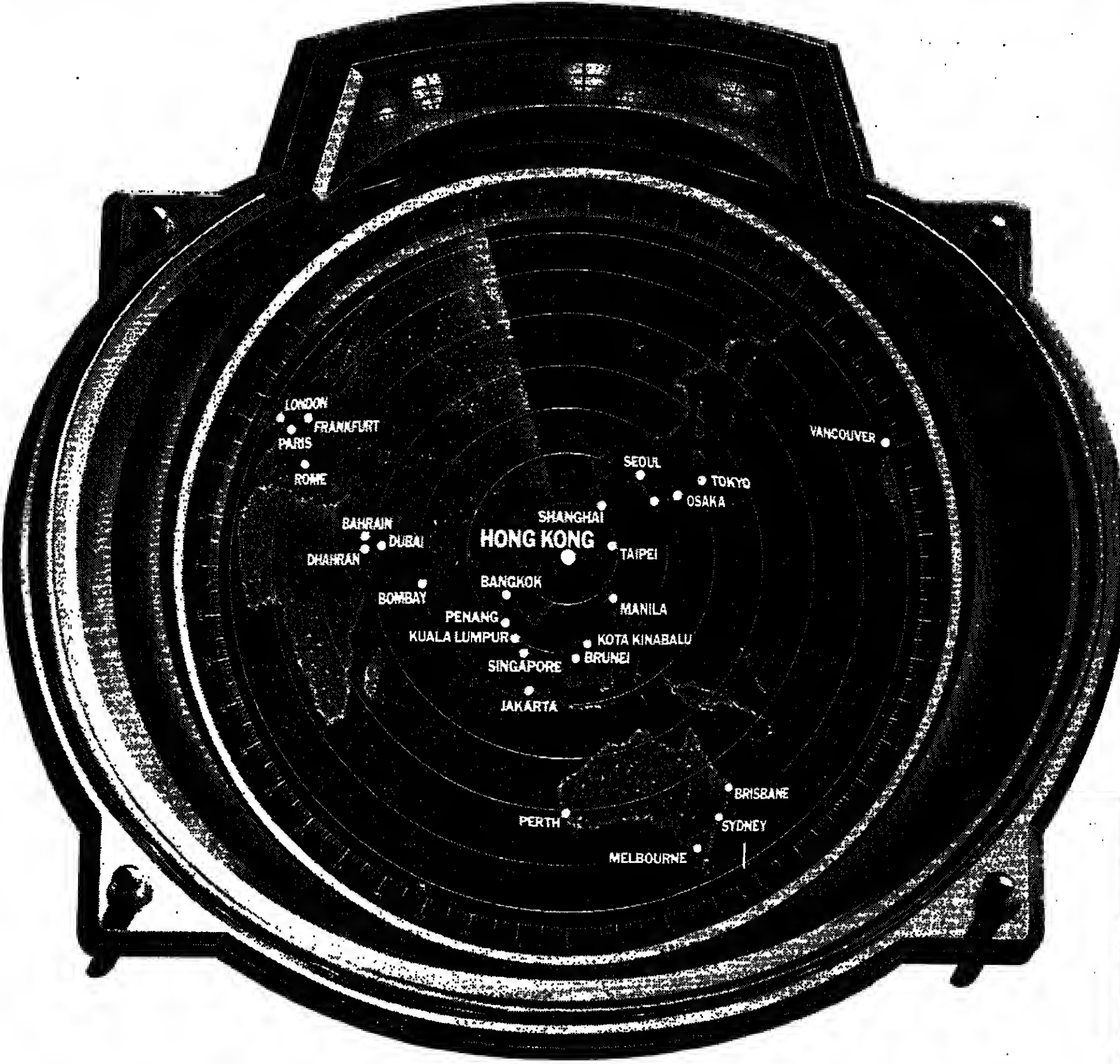
Mr Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister, said yesterday that Turkish troops would not be withdrawn from northern Cyprus until a solution to the Cyprus problem was reached that contained guarantees for the Turkish Cypriot minority in the north of the island.

Answering questions at a press conference at the end of his four-day official visit to Britain, Mr Ozal said he "really wanted" a solution to the Cyprus problem and expressed support for the UN settlement initiative.

Despite the lack of progress on the Cyprus issue, Mr Ozal seemed satisfied with his talks in London. It was clear he had achieved the main objective of his visit, which was to portray Turkey as a country successfully preparing itself for EEC membership.

He invited Mrs Thatcher and Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, to Turkey.

Asked about the fate of four Britons serving long sentences in Turkish prisons for drug-related offences, he indicated that no legal obstacle stood in the way of their transfer to Britain now that both countries had ratified the Council of Europe convention.



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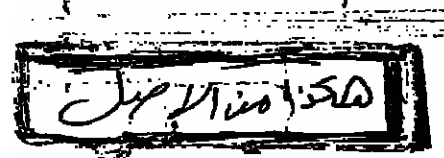
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White House dilemma after Congress vote on Philippines

From Michael Binyon, Washington

As an angry Congress overwhelmingly passed a resolution condemning the Philippine election as a "massive fraud", the Reagan Administration has decided to deliver a scolding to President Marcos by sending only a low-level diplomat to his inauguration.

Normally a senior official, such as Vice-President George Bush, would represent President Reagan at the inauguration of a close US ally. But after his own condemnation of the election, Mr Reagan is also unlikely to send any message of congratulation to the Philippine leader.

The Senate's non-binding resolution, passed by 85-9 votes on Wednesday, called on the President personally to convey its concern to Mr Marcos. It said the elections "were marked by such widespread fraud that they cannot be considered a fair reflection of the will of the people."

Conservative Republicans, such as Senator Robert Dole, the majority leader, have urged caution, saying Congress needed more "concrete evidence" of fraud before cutting off aid.

His caution reflects the dilemma of the Administration. Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, also urged a continuation of aid. He told a Senate budget committee: "We have on our hands a very delicate and difficult situation, and we don't want to jump at it with precipitous action." He said Mr Philip

Habib, the US special envoy, was "getting around very carefully" in Manila, consulting all sides.

But the Administration is finding it ever harder to counsel moderation with a rising tide of emotion in Congress and the country. Its argument that it must maintain good relations with Manila because of the US bases has provoked hostile reaction among Democrats.

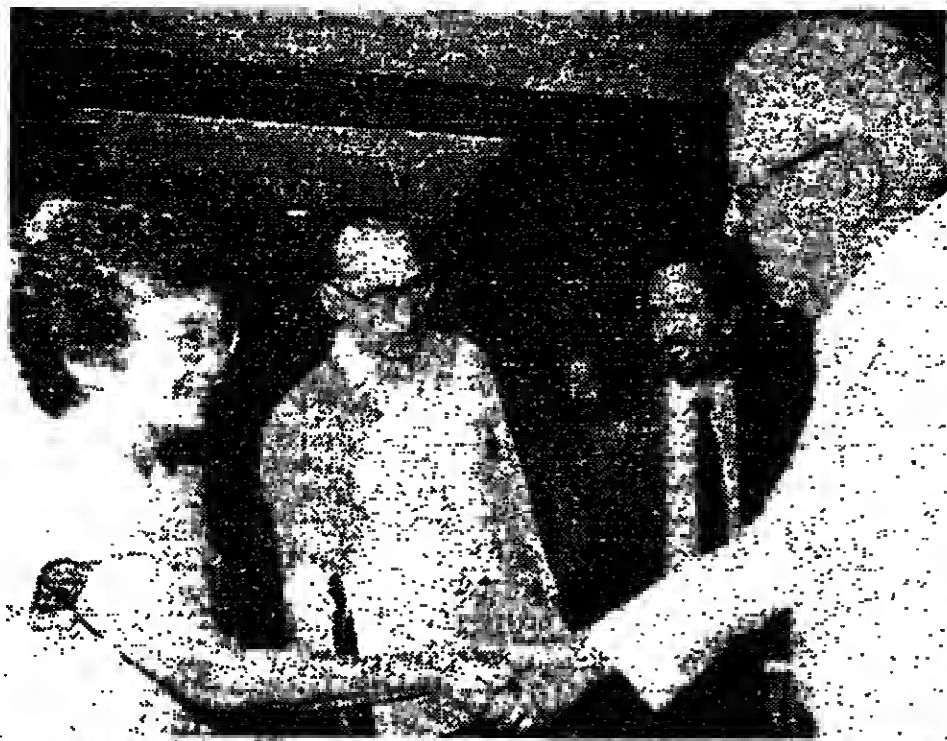
"If we don't pull the plug on course the Philippine people will pull the plug on the United States and our bases," said Senator Jim Sasser, a Tennessee Democrat who has introduced legislation to cut off all aid.

Just as over South African sanctions, President Reagan, reluctant to condemn anyone preaching anti-communism, is being forced to take a tougher stance to maintain the policy initiative.

The White House has seen the present crisis coming for a long time. But while determined not to be seen undermining a long-standing US ally, in the way President Carter was accused of undermining the Shah of Iran, the Administration realizes that Mr Marcos must go, and go soon, if street riots and chaos are to be averted.

However, the Administration does not know at the moment how it can help a peaceful transition, given the bitterness of all sides. The Habib mission is seen here as

Nailing colours to the Manila mast



A contrast in attitudes of East and West towards the post-election crisis in the Philippines: Mrs Aquino (above) greets the Spanish Ambassador, Señor Pedro Ortiz Armengol, while the British Ambassador, Mr Robin McLaren (second right) looks on; and (below) the Soviet Ambassador, Mr Vadim Shabalin (left), presents his credentials to President Marcos.

playing for time, in the hope that Mr Marcos will see the strength of feeling ranged against him.

One official said the Administration was "walking a tightrope by trying to be a constructive — and not destructive — influence". It wanted to avoid any step that would "radicalize Marcos or Aquino".

Mr Larry Speakes, the White House spokesman, has therefore described any steps to cut off aid as "premature". Mr Shultz said on Wednesday that US military aid remains the best and most effective tool to promote the reform and development of a country's armed forces.

This year the US is to give Manila military aid totalling \$54.7 million (£37.7 million) and economic aid of \$181.2 million.

EEC envoys snub Marcos with call on Aquino

From David Watts, Manila

Ambassadors of the countries of the European Community called on Mrs Corason Aquino, the opposition leader, yesterday in what appeared to be an unprecedented diplomatic gesture.

Mr Robin McLaren of Britain was joined by the ambassadors of Ireland, Spain, the Netherlands, France, Belgium and Italy, while West Germany and Denmark were represented by chargé d'affaires.

The envoys, who went to Mrs Aquino's offices at her invitation, were later joined by the ambassadors of Switzerland, Norway, Austria, Finland and Sweden in the strongest repudiation so far of President Marcos's claim to have won the presidential elections.

The Japanese Ambassador followed his European colleagues later with a visit at his own request. Though Japan has not sent any congratulatory message to Mr Marcos, the embassy has also requested an audience with him.

The Dutch Ambassador, Mr Weiger Helmers, speaking as the present chairman of the EEC, said it was normal to call on the head of the legal opposition. But one of his colleagues said later that it was unprecedented in his experience for the EEC to make such a call collectively.

"It is an extraordinary gesture," he said. "But these are extraordinary times in the Philippines."

Mrs Aquino impressed her visitors with her reasonable attitude. She did not ask for recognition as the winner of the election but for support for democracy. An agreed statement put out

by the two sides said Mrs Aquino reiterated her determination "to vindicate the people's verdict and assume the presidency at the earliest possible time".

The visit was interpreted here as a strong snub for the Marcos Government. When EEC diplomats visited the Foreign Ministry later the first question put to them by the Government concerned their discussions with Mrs Aquino.

As a follow-up to their gesture yesterday the EEC governments have been considering a boycott or low-level representation at President Marcos's inauguration ceremony scheduled for next Tuesday.

Faced with a marked lack of enthusiasm from the outside world, the Philippines Government is now talking of a small ceremony, perhaps at the Malacanang Presidential Palace, with the official explanation that difficult economic circumstances have forced a more modest celebration on the Government.

It is that event it would probably be a relatively private affair thus relieving governments of a ticklish diplomatic decision.

The opposition is planning a national day of protest the next day which appears to be gathering steam with agreement by trades union organizations to take part.

A mass protest march of students to the Makati business district is planned today.

● GLENDALE, California: An executive of the *Philippine News*, a newspaper opposed to the Marcos Government, was shot dead at his home north of Los Angeles after receiving a threatening note (AP reports).



Commentary
Geoffrey Smith

How assured is West Germany's position as a lynchpin of the Western Alliance? Without its full and active participation there would be a vacuum in the heart of Europe and a devastating gap in the Alliance structure. I have been paying particular attention to this question during my talks in West Germany this week. But I am convinced that it does not really arise so long as the present Government remains in power.

Although one should never forget that it is a coalition, with differences of emphasis between the Christian Democrats and the Free Democrats, its commitment to the Alliance is not in doubt. There is particular pride that the Government kept its nerve over the Euro-missiles when so many people were saying that it would be impossible to deploy them against such strident opposition.

At the same time, this is a government eager for dialogue with the Soviet Union. It was one of the first to press for a summit meeting between President Reagan and Mr Gorbachov.

Now, after the atmospheric success at Geneva in November, there is concern that the next meeting in Washington in the summer should produce some specific progress. This might take the form of an agreement on chemical weapons, or conceivably — so I have been told — on conventional forces in the MBFR negotiations in Vienna.

But attention is particularly directed to American suggestions for responding to Mr Gorbachov's proposals on intermediate range missiles which Mr Paul Nitze, President Reagan's special adviser on arms control, has been taking around European capitals.

I detect some scepticism in Bonn as to whether the idea of removing all such missiles from Europe is immediately practical. It seems to be regarded as a somewhat distant ideal. I also sensed a preference, if medium range missiles are to be eliminated, for treating them all alike wherever they are sited rather than allowing the Soviet Union to keep half its SS20s in Asia as an interim arrangement.

Prospect of second phase of detente

What I have not found in governing circles in Bonn, however, is any pressure for British and French concessions on their independent nuclear deterrents.

The critical questions about Germany's role in the Atlantic Alliance would arise, though, only if there were a change of government in Bonn. In my conversation with Herr Johannes Rau, the Social Democratic challenger for the Chancellery, I formed two distinct impressions on this point — that he does attach importance to the Alliance, but that he wants to keep the greatest possible freedom of manoeuvre on specific policies.

An SPD Government, we told me, would offer the prospect of a second phase of detente. But it would remain in Nato. It would want to reduce the level of armaments, but only by negotiations.

But what if agreement could not be reached with the Soviet Union on Euro-missiles? At this point Herr Rau was reluctant to be drawn. He would want to remove the missiles from West Germany only as agreed Nato policy, but he did not want to make such a commitment now for fear of weakening his hand within the Alliance.

He was somewhat delphic as to whether he would favour concessions on the British and French deterrents for the sake of a missile agreement. These forces were first of all questioned for the British and French themselves, he maintained. But then he added that a few years ago the West as a whole had no more nuclear weapons than the British and French have together now.

The overall conclusion I drew was that an SPD Government under Herr Rau might give its allies some anxiety, but would not be too disturbing. He would have to watch his left-wing, but would take care not to undermine the Alliance.

A coalition between the SPD and the Greens, however, would be another matter. The Greens would be bound to exert an influence on policy that would be damaging to Nato, and Herr Rau would presumably decline to lead such a government. Without the assurance of his moderating influence there would be cause for concern.

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Royal tour of Nepal

The Queen meets her loyal, brave and most ferocious soldiers

From Michael Hamlyn, Kathmandu

"They are incredibly good soldiers." Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis, the senior British officer in Nepal, said. "They are tough, loyal, and when it gets going they are extremely ferocious."

On the last full day of her tour of the Himalayan kingdom, the Queen met some of the most ferocious of the soldiers who had served in the British Gurkha regiments. She met five holders of the Victoria Cross, 23 Military Cross holders, 20 winners of the Military Medal and holders of 74 other decorations.

Just how ferocious they could be is testified to in the citations when they won their decorations. For example, one day in Burma in March, 1945, Rifleman Bhanbhakta Gurus stood up while under heavy fire and dropped a sniper in a tree. Then, his blood up, he charged a foxhole, killing its two occupants with grenades. He charged on, alone, to the next foxhole and dispatched the Japanese soldier in it.

By this time properly worked up, he charged a bunker whence a machine gun was directing a withering fire

on his comrades. He was out of explosive grenades by now, but lobbed a couple of smoke grenades through the slit, and as two Japanese soldiers came out, killed them with his kukri, the curved, broad-bladed knife that every Gurkha soldier carries. Finally he crawled inside the bunker and killed the remaining Japanese, who were still firing the gun.

Yesterday Bhanbhakta Gurus, who was eventually promoted to corporal, stood on the lawn of the British defence attaché's bungalow in Kathmandu and said he had enjoyed his time in the Army. After the war, though, he went back to his village and now, aged 64, still makes his living farming.

Dalbhadur Rai, who won the MC in the Malayan emergency, was in no doubt about what it was he missed about the Army. "The comradeship and the combats," he said, his eyes twinkling. He is now 70, and lives in a tiny village close to the foot of Everest.

But when he received his invitation to meet the Queen, he set out to walk to the nearest place he could catch a bus to the Gurkha depot. It

took him 10 days. "I received the Queen's invitation, and I came," he said.

The Queen, in a mango-coloured dress and a straw boater, was accompanied by Brigadier Hunt-Davis as she met the bravest of the brave. The brigadier is responsible for recruitment.

The Gurkha tradition in the British Army began when the British failed to defeat the Nepalese in 1816. On the theory that if you can't beat them, have them join you, they were invited to sign up with the former enemy, and since then they have distinguished themselves.

● **Plea to Howe:** Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, will be pressed on his return from Nepal to intercede on behalf of the kingdom's Christian minority, which has appealed for help against religious persecution (Our Parliamentary Staff writes).

He will be presented with a dossier collected by two British MPs which cites 36 examples of torture, brutality or bureaucratic harassment of the 35,000-strong Christian community.



Plainclothes policemen grappling with a member of South Korea's main opposition party near its headquarters in Seoul before leading him away to a waiting police car.

Seoul riot police ban opposition meeting

Seoul (AP) - Riot police withdrew yesterday from headquarters of the main opposition party after thwarting its plans to hold a meeting to campaign to change the constitution.

But opposition sources at least 270 New Korea Democratic Party leaders and members, including 80 deputies of the National Assembly, still under house arrest surveillance.

The country's two known dissident leaders, Kim Dae Jung and Mr. Yoon Sang, were arrested yesterday's police action. NKDP officials had mated the police force set off their headquarters 1,000. Police said they were trying to prevent a so-called illegal assembly.

The Government of President Chun Doo Hwan served warning that it will similar steps in the future to halt the campaign to support signatures in support changes in the constitution. Police moved into the overnight, barring entry the second time in a week. Middy police buses and officers lined the streets of the party headquarters.

The barred opposition members and officials entering the building.

French-speakers go on the offensive

From Diana Geddes Paris

A strategy to save the French language from the ever-growing onslaught of English has been adopted at the first Francophone summit.

Delegates from the 39 French-speaking countries agreed to set up an international agency for the worldwide broadcasting of French-language television programmes with an initial three-year budget of 16 million francs (£1.5 million).

France decided to earmark one of its four telecommunications satellite channels, due to be launched this year, for the relay of only French-spoken programmes. It also agreed to pay 29 million francs to double the hours of French-spoken programmes on its cable television network, TV5, which is already relayed to most European countries and will soon be extended to Africa and North America.

In the world of data processing, where the French are particularly worried by the increasing dominance of English, a group is to be set up to list existing French-language data banks in order to coordinate and extend their uses.

Delegates to the summit also agreed to launch a paperback book series devoted to French authors; promote the publication of French school books; and, organize a Francophone book fair to be held every two years in Paris.

Concerning foreign affairs, the summit adopted a carefully-worded resolution condemning "without reservation" the system of apartheid in South Africa but it avoided any mention of sanctions. Several African delegates made clear their displeasure at so mild a resolution.

10,000 arrested in Delhi

Delhi (AP) - Some 10,000 demonstrators and about 100 opposition deputies were arrested yesterday in a protest against recent government-ordered price rises, police said.

As many as 20,000 demonstrators thronged the streets outside Parliament on the opening day of the new budget session, which was boycotted by opposition parties.

Police said about 100 opposition deputies and their supporters voluntarily placed themselves under arrest.

Some demonstrators broke police lines during the rally and smashed the windscreens of several government buses. Women activists beat their breasts, chanting "Prices are going up - what are we to do?" Other demonstrators, carrying flags and banners, shouted: "Down, down with (Prime Minister) Rajiv Gandhi."

President Zail Singh told Parliament that the country was facing several crucial economic problems and that progress could not be made without sacrifices by citizens and "hard decisions" by the Government. "The question basically is whether we want to stand on our own feet or not," he said.

● **Kashmir protest:** Angry crowds yesterday clashed with police and set alight two buses in Srinagar, capital of Indian-held Kashmir, the Press Trust of India reported as violence continued over the reopening of a place of worship disputed by Hindus and Muslims (AFP reports).

Fact Nasa chiefs did not know

From Mohsin Ali Washington

A presidential commission investigating the Challenger explosion has said that at least three key Nasa officials did not know that some rocket engineers had advised against the launching of the shuttle on January 28 because of cold weather.

The commission said that engineers for the shuttle booster rocket builder, Morton Thiokol, had strongly urged against the ill-fated launching.

According to a statement, the panel learnt on the day before the launch that Morton Thiokol had recommended that Challenger should not blast off because of the weather. Although senior Morton Thiokol officials later approved the launch, the statement said, a number of engineers at the company still strongly urged against it.

Mr Jesse Moore, shuttle director, told a Senate subcommittee hearing that he was unaware of the engineers' concern. If he had known he would have sought further information before approving the launch.

Rear-Admiral Richard Truly, a veteran of two space shuttle missions who heads the Naval Space Command, is expected to be named to succeed Mr Moore as Nasa associate administrator in charge of the shuttle programme. Five days before the January 28 explosion, Nasa announced that Mr Moore would become director of the Johnson Space Centre in Houston.

Farm workers jailed for demanding jobs

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

A court in Seville yesterday jailed seven farm labourers for creating a public disorder by staging a sit-in at a town hall to protest against a lack of jobs on the land.

The seven were each jailed for six months for the 1983 sit-in in the Andalusia region. An eighth man was sentenced to 28 months' jail for his part in a previous sit-in elsewhere.

The sentencing court was the same one that, a fortnight ago, ruled in favour of local landowners and against the introduction of the Andalusian regional government's land reform programme passed last October.

A spokesman for the workers' trade union - whose general secretary, Señor Diego Canamero, was one of the eight jailed - said the sentences made it difficult for the labourers to respect the law "which condemns them for demanding work while at the same time it paralyzes even the smallest attempt to change Andalusia's land structures responsible for their situation".

The Andalusian government will fight the court's decision against the legality of its agricultural reform programme as will the union against the jail terms.

Tass accused by dissident Jewish pianist

Moscow (Reuter) - The Soviet pianist Vladimir Feltsman yesterday accused the official news agency Tass of distorting an incident in which a piano at the United States ambassador's residence was damaged.

Piano strings were found to have been tampered with only hours before Mr Feltsman, a Jew denied permission to emigrate, was due to give a concert. The US Embassy blamed "unknown vandals".

Tass said the incident had been turned into an anti-Soviet spectacle. In an open letter to Tass made available to Western reporters, Mr Feltsman denied the agency's accusations that he was hysterical and attention-seeking. "All I said was that I regarded the act as absolutely unacceptable."

91 scientists trapped in polar ice

Hobart, Australia (AP) - In a race against time, an icebreaking ship was being prepared yesterday to rescue 91 Australian scientists and researchers stranded in the Antarctic.

Fears that the group was trapped in polar ice were mounting after an Australian research ship, the Icebird, reported engine trouble and was forced to turn back, said Mr Jim Bleasel, director of the Science Department's Antarctic division.

"Access will depend on exactly how soon the sea ice starts to advance," he said. "If the wind blows the ice into a solid pressured mass, access will be difficult."

Ice conditions were the worst in memory.



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BP Britain at its best.

Russia stakes a space claim

Yesterday's launch of a new, adaptable orbiting station puts the Soviet Union ahead not only in the industrial and military exploitation of space but also in the race to Mars. Keith Hindley plots the possibilities

While American scientists wonder what effect the recent Challenger disaster will have on NASA's shuttle programme and its associated projects, the Soviet Union has launched the first of a new generation of space laboratories, putting the nation of the first permanently-manned space station only a week or so away.

The new craft will form the hub of a station that is planned to present the Soviet Union with direct military reconnaissance advantages, a platform for scientific research, and a staging post for a manned flight to Mars by the late 1990s.

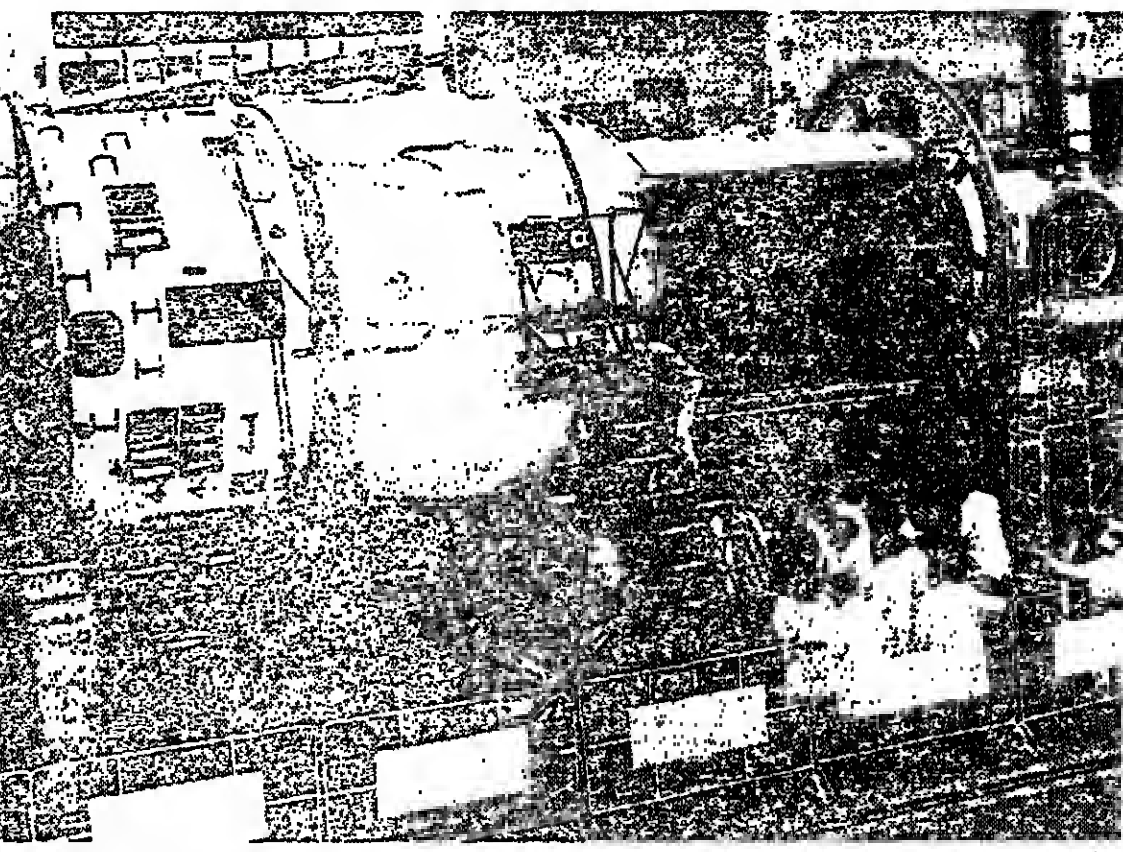
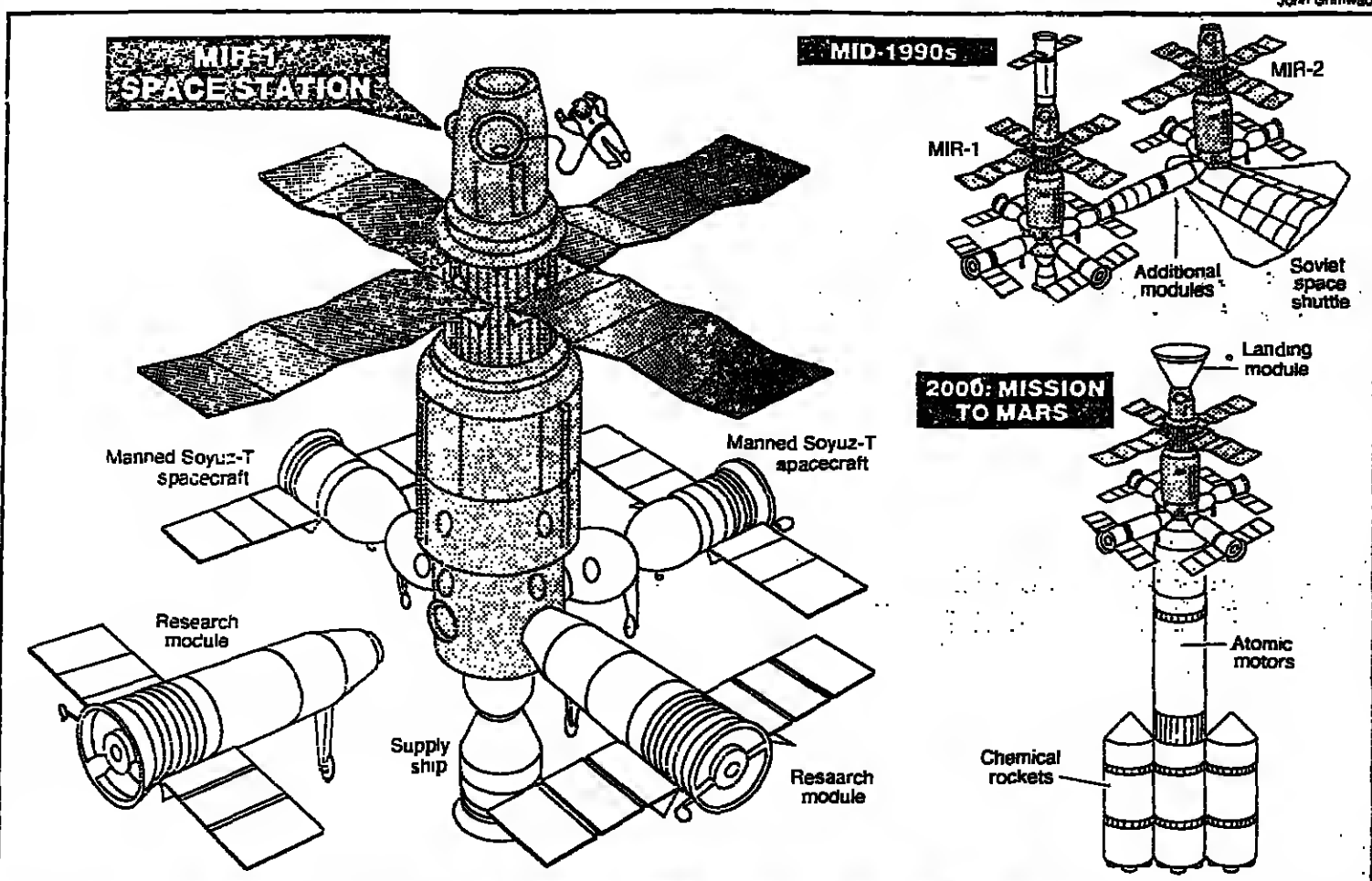
Mir certainly marks a major advance in the Soviet manned space programme. It carries not only the two docking ports for crews to arrive and depart, carried by the old Soviet *Salyut* laboratories, but also four other large solidly built ports. Modules as large as the 20-ton *Salyut* laboratories that the Soviet Union has been flying since 1971 could be docked into these four positions. Mir would then act as a vital hub of a massive space station with four separate research laboratories arranged like the spokes of a wheel.

The Russians say that a standard crew of 12 could live comfortably in such a station, with space for 20 or more for short periods. The new station has much more luxurious living quarters than the spartan *Salyut* laboratories. Each cosmonaut will have his own sleeping compartment, access to the bunks in modern atomic submarines and the first concession to privacy in manned spaceflight. The Russians are even speaking of extensive recreation areas and comfortable lounges.

The Mir vehicle will provide the official heart of a large manned station similar in design to the space laboratories that NASA hopes to have orbiting the earth in six to eight years' time. The design allows research modules and additional Mir craft to be added to a station complex at will, with no apparent limit to the size of the habitation.

The Mir craft will accept modules of three main types, two of which the Russians have already discussed in detail. "Techno" modules will carry industrial research projects. These will include the production of ultra-high purity materials for the microelectronics industry, the purification of chemicals and mixtures (to provide, for example, engineering experiments such as welding and bonding) for future space construction, and biological studies on the crew and their lifelines.

"Astro" modules will house experiments in the physical sciences including major astronomical projects, one of them a modest sized space tele-



Testing, testing: engineers preparing the Mir module for launch from the Baikonur cosmodrome, Kazakhstan

scope. The Russians have already conducted hundreds of such experiments using the old *Salyut* laboratories.

The most frequent visitor to future Mir stations, however, is likely to be the secret military spy module, which the Russians have been reluctant to discuss. This will operate more effectively from the low orbit usually employed by the Russians than similar cameras, telescopes and sensors carried at greater heights by American space shuttles.

Defence work is the mainstay of the Soviet space programme. Three of the

seven *Salyut* space laboratories of recent years were exclusively military while the others undoubtedly carried out spy missions.

Crews will travel to and from the new stations in the three-man Soyuz-7 capsules, using two small docking ports. With an expected standard crew of 12, this means that Mir will be the first permanently manned space station. Within two or three years, as Mir facilities expand, the Russians will commission their own mini-shuttle to carry up to half a dozen cosmonauts and technicians along with important equipment.

Eventually this shuttle will take off and land at any major military airport, allowing great flexibility in wartime. And the problem of supplies has been overcome. Most of them - food and fuel, for example - will be carried to Mir using the tested unmailed "Progress" supply vessels. These have operated with the *Salyut* stations for many years now.

The unique flexibility of the Mir station is likely to be exploited in more than just Earth orbit. The Russians have always made it clear that they intend to send cosmonauts to both the Moon and Mars. A Mir station built

up in lunar orbit could act as a permanent forward base for routine exploration of the Moon using two-man landing vehicles. Such a vehicle was being developed for the abandoned Moon landing programme in the late 1960s, and it would be surprising if this design is not now being re-examined and improved.

The Mir vehicle could also provide the heart of a pair of two or three-man spacehips capable of making the two-and-a-half-year journey to Mars, going into orbit around the planet and putting two men on the surface. Mars has been discussed by Russian engineers and cosmonauts for more than 10 years, and at least half a dozen leading Soviet experts have said they expect to see their cosmonauts there before the year 2000.

To get there, the Russians must make several developments. First, a new rocket launcher - even more powerful than the American Saturn moon rocket - will be needed to put the many parts of a Mars complex into orbit. The Russians are known to have been developing such a booster for at least 20 years. Attempts to test early prototypes in the late 1960s led to disastrous explosions, but a new model is thought to be in a late stage of development with test flights soon.

Second, the Russians will need a space tug to assemble a Mars vehicle in Earth orbit. Such a vehicle has already been orbited and tested by the Russians.

Finally, they are now believed to be developing a massive atomic rocket motor which would prove invaluable on a Mars trip. Firing at modest power for long periods, such a motor would dramatically cut the weight of a Mars craft once chemical rockets pushed the Mars vehicles away from Earth orbit. Atomic motors are twice as efficient as even the liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen motors of NASA's space shuttle. The Americans were developing atomic motors themselves 20 years ago, but the project was abandoned.

Butterflies safe in the system

Why developers will no longer be able to plead ignorance when rare species are under threat

Conservationists will soon have a powerful electronic ally in their fight to defend the countryside. Within a few years they will be able to summon at the touch of a computer key a comprehensive inventory of the United Kingdom's best wild places and their natural treasures.

The Royal Society for Nature Conservation expect this data bank, now being assembled by its county branches, to be consulted routinely by planning authorities and public bodies when any likely corner of the land is about to be smothered in concrete. No longer will developers be able to plead ignorance of the rare flowers, animals or birds on a site which they are about to flatten.

"It would be an unwise decision maker, charged with any responsibility for nature conservation, who failed to consult organizations with such information at his finger tips", says Dr Franklyn Perriog, the RSNC's general secretary.

The list could end the need for dramatic stop-the-build interventions by environmentalists. Forewarned by the data bank at planning application stage, developers would court public displeasure if they failed to accommodate a rare species in their plans.

The computerized record could also end some of the breathless, and in conservation terms doubtful, habitat rescue attempts. In 1984, for example, the Suffolk Trust rolled up 5,000sq yds of turf at Warren Heath, Ipswich, to save a colony of the rare silver studded-blue butterfly from a hypermarket site. The trust did not hear of the scheme in time to persuade the developers to change their plans.

and other local bodies, and 5,000 sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs). Eventually the list will include sub sites - smaller areas interesting for wildlife but so far unprotected - and a further category, protected roadside verges (PRVs).

The counties will regularly post their floppy disks to a central point where the RSNC's master list will be updated. Within a few years the list will be complete and unique in its scope. While much of this site data already exists in written form, conservation groups do not have the manpower to use it effectively. Even the partly-computerized records of the government's own Nature Conservancy Council are confined to the SSSIs and 200 national nature reserves.

The software for the national site recording scheme was written by Bernard Chandler, head of environmental studies at Hatfield Polytechnic, and his students. So far the scheme, including computers, has cost about £100,000, funded with grants from BP and the NCC.

The software enables trusts to record the essential details of each site: its status and ownership, area, its importance - for instance as a habitat for bats, reptiles or mammals - and its key indicator species, such as horseshoe vetch on chalk downs, and greater spearwort on lowland wetland.

Chandler's team is modifying the software to allow the RSNC to monitor habitat changes more swiftly and in far greater detail. It will also enable the trusts to make comparative lists of such different habitat types as ancient woodland and unimproved grassland.

The existing software cannot take in every plant species in a site, but some trusts are facing even this daunting challenge. One of the biggest trusts, the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Naturalists Trust (BBONT), has used 20 MSC-funded botanists on a four-year survey of 1,300 plant species in 8,000 sites in the three counties, some as small as unplanted corners of fields.

The RSNC's Dr Franklyn Perriog said that as well as warning developers of what they might destroy, trusts would also be able to tell landowners about the contents of sites suitable to be made into reserves.

"As the organization most concerned with small sites, it falls to us to have the most complete information of sites of any importance. It is important that people who own or influence the use of land should be aware of the nature it contains."

Trusts are facing a daunting challenge

Gareth Huw Davies

The list will be unique in scope

So far 23 of the 46 county nature trusts which make up the RSNC, the only genuinely national organization interested in all aspects of nature conservation, are equipped with the £5,000 Comart computers. The first task of the trusts is to record the 1,600 reserves which they own or manage; as small as Deep Mill Pond, near Great Missenden in Buckinghamshire, and as big as Benmore Coigach, 5,948 hectares of heather moorland in the Scottish Highlands.

The trusts will also record the 800 reserves owned by the Nature Conservancy Council, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, the Woodland Trust, National Trust

SATURDAY

The weekend starts here



Catering to all tastes

It's a common delusion: you throw a few dinner parties, are profusely complimented by your friends, and conclude that you could make money from your culinary skills. Why not open a restaurant? But beware... before you choose the tablecloths for the bistro, read *The Times* guide to the pitfalls of catering to the *hoi polloi*, and take advice from the budding restaurateurs who bit off more than they could chew.

Broadway baby Neil Simon at the National
Glacier country A welcome in Iceland
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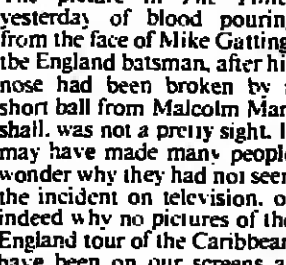
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TV stumps cricket fans

Television bosses drew a blank over coverage of the Caribbean tour. John Young writes



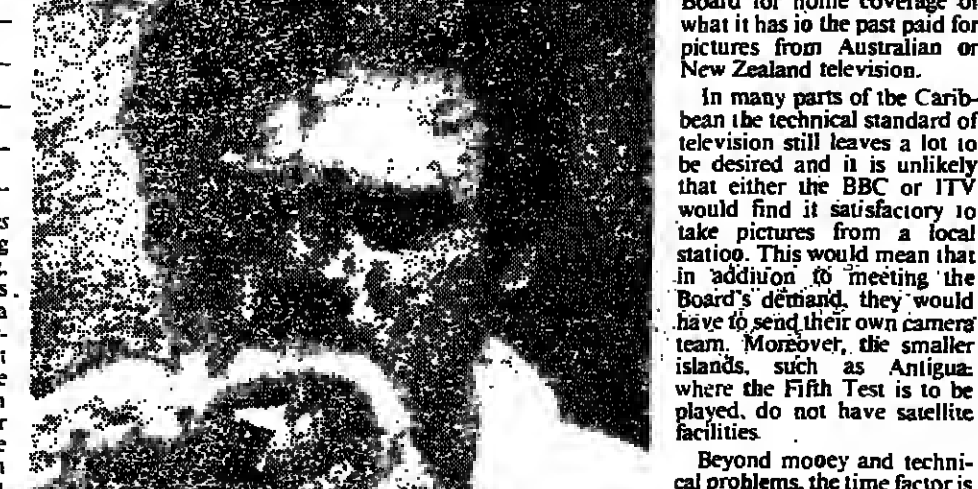
Bad break: the picture of Mike Gatting viewers never saw

The picture in *The Times* yesterday of blood pouring from the face of Mike Gatting, the England batsman, after his nose had been broken by a short ball from Malcolm Marshall, was not a pretty sight. It may have made many people wonder why they had not seen the incident on television, or indeed why no pictures of the England tour of the Caribbean have been on our screens at all.

The answer is, as all too often in sport nowadays, a dispute about money. The West Indian Cricket Board of Control is demanding more for the television rights than either the BBC or the independent companies are prepared to pay. More than that, the board is even asking £500 a day for news coverage of each of the five five-day Test matches and the four one-day internationals.

Both the BBC and ITV object strongly to the principle of payment for access to news which they say should, in the interests of freedom of the media, be available to all. On Tuesday they went so far as to issue a joint statement in which they described the board's demand as without precedent and unacceptable.

It also said: "Lengthy discussions have taken place with the WICBC and their representative, Mr Mike Watt, during which both television news organizations have explained their position: namely that news access to Test matches has never been the



subject of payment in this country or elsewhere, and that should television companies be required to pay for their news coverage, their position as members of the press corps, who do not pay for coverage, becomes invidious."

A point of principle concerning news coverage may be understandable: the absence of an arrangement for edited highlights or ball-by-ball coverage is another matter. Negotiations have, in fact, been taking place for several months, and after the BBC had turned down the asking price of £500,000, which it considered exorbitant, an approach was made to London Weekend Television to see if they would be interested in buying on behalf of the independent network.

Once again the answer was no, but there was a suggestion that Channel 4 might be interested. This would have been a new departure, since the BBC has traditionally virtually monopolized cricket coverage. Channel 4 has been showing increasing interest in sport, and its racing coverage in particular has attracted much favourable comment.

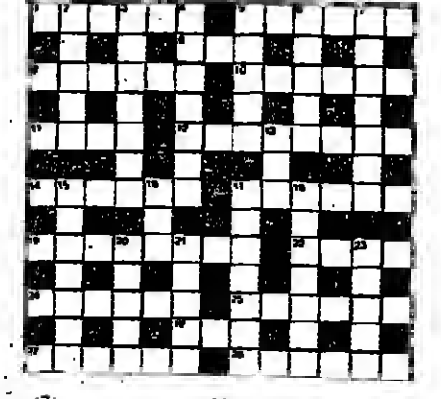
But despite what has clearly been a long period of brinkmanship, with the West Indies board evidently convinced up to the last minute that the British would come to heel, it now seems almost certain that there will be no compromise and no change of heart.

By comparison with the £1.3 million which the BBC eventually agreed to pay after a protracted dispute with the Football League for coverage of six live league matches, the Milk Cup semi-finals and final, and 14 recorded matches, to many people the board's demand may not seem that steep.

Comparisons are difficult to make, since both the BBC and the independent companies refuse to provide details, claiming that the contracts they reach with the various governing bodies of different sports are private and confidential. The BBC refuses to say, for example, what it pays the Test and County Cricket

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 881)

- ACROSS
- 1 Snub (6)
 - 5 Awning (6)
 - 8 Education body (11,11)
 - 9 Injury (6)
 - 10 Modern (6)
 - 11 Foot covering (4)
 - 12 Mirey (6)
 - 14 Astute (6)
 - 17 Wanderer (6)
 - 18 Scholarly person (8)
 - 22 Road levy (4)
 - 24 Old sailor (3,3)
 - 25 Dwell in (4)
 - 26 Alphabet (11,11)
 - 27 Assault (6)
 - 28 Warder (6)
- DOWN
- 2 Soil (5)
 - 3 Hawaiian guitar (7)
 - 4 Lump (7)
 - 5 Slice meat (5)
 - 6 Wall recess (5)
 - 7 Style (7)
 - 13 Low (3)
 - 15 Female beneficiary (7)
 - 16 Spider's mesh (3)
 - 17 Car support (7)
 - 18 Telempromper (7)
 - 21 Royal (5)
 - 23 Decline (5)



SOLUTION TO No 880

ACROSS: 8 Inland Revenue 9 Mire 10 Sugar beet 11 Scrub 13 Rivally 15 Proved 19 Loto 22 Nutriment 24 Imp 25 Mount of Olive

DOWN: 1 Litmus 2 Elvir 4 Kruger 5 Over 6 Unreal 7 Debt 12 Car 14 Violate 15 Rot 16 Panama 17 Output 18 See off 20 Thieve 21 Oppose 23 Lou

Commissioner for Local Administration in Scotland APPOINTMENT OF THE "SCOTTISH LOCAL OMBUDSMAN"

Mr E. L. Gillett, Commissioner for Local Administration in Scotland, is to retire on 30 June 1986. In accordance with section 21(2) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1975, the Secretary of State for Scotland will, after consultation with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, recommend a successor for appointment by Her Majesty the Queen.

The Commissioner's main task is to investigate and report on complaints of injustice in consequence of maladministration by local authorities and certain other bodies. The Commissioner's office is in Edinburgh. The post is part-time (at present half-time), is remunerated at the appropriate portion of a salary of £40,000 to £42,000 per annum and is pensionable. It is to be expected that only a person with considerable experience of public administration at a senior level will be appointed.

Persons interested in being considered for the post or wishing to suggest a name or names for consideration should write in confidence by 14 March 1986 to: The Secretary, Scottish Development Department, Room 4/89, New St Andrew's House, EDINBURGH EH1 3SZ.

Issued by the Scottish Office

هكذا من الأصل

'Inside I knew this day would come ...it was strange, because in all my imaginings I had never taken it to the very end. On the one hand, it was exciting, on the other it felt as if we had last met a few hours ago'

Avital Shcharansky

Avital Shcharansky is picking up the threads of her 11-year marriage which began again last week when her husband Anatoly crossed to the West. Bel Mooney met the couple at home in their Jerusalem flat

Avital Shcharansky had had enough. A week of television crews invading the small flat-cum-office in the new suburb, people approaching her in the street with congratulations, and now the agony of her wisdom tooth. "For years I have had no trouble with my teeth and now this comes the very week Anatoly is free. It must be what is the word - psychological."

stant speculation that she, influenced by her friends in Gush Eminim (the right wing nationalist-spiritual movement that seeks to extend Jewish settlements), may have problems with her more secular husband, Avital laughs merrily. "We just make fun of all that. This morning Anatoly said to me: 'The whole world is concerned with how we are making out together, except us'. We are not at all concerned. We laugh, full of good feelings towards one another. We shall work it all out."

For a second his habitual good humour shifts into exasperation, as he waves aside criticism that, for example, he has not been wearing the skullcap Avital placed on his head on his arrival. "Today I read something in the Press which said I was in the hands of the religious Mafia. I tell you those friends of Avital who have sacrificed years, helping her, travelling with her, organizing this flat, are people of tact and delicacy. They do not try to push me into becoming more Orthodox. Listen I read a lie in the newspaper that on Saturday I was taken to a synagogue almost by force, when all day Avital and I were at home. It's a free Press, the freedom to write that they like." In his long protest there is an undercurrent of real tension, and the Yamulka is still absent from his head.

Avital says that three things kept her going during the 11-year separation: the friends mentioned by her husband, being in Israel ("representing him here in the country of which we both dreamed"), and above all, the thought of Anatoly in prison: "I could think of how well he was doing, how strong he was, and that gave me the push to continue". Even though there were times when she was close to despair, "inside I knew this day would come". And then it was the meeting at Frankfurt: "it was strange, because in all my

imaginings I had never taken it to the very end. On the one hand it was exciting, but on the other hand it felt as if we had last met only a few hours ago."

He felt the same, describing - most movingly - how through all the red tape, talking to ambassadors and putting his foot for the first time on free soil, he thought only of Avital. When at last the bellows changed to shakos there was suddenly a closed door ahead of him: "And I went through, and there was Avital sitting there alone. I can't remember how many people I crossed to reach her, but there she was, and I turned back to 1972, and in fact she looked exactly the same. Exactly." His voice grew husky: "I had imagined that moment many times when sleeping, but always just at the moment when I was approaching Avital I was awakened. But now you see, we are together one week, and still I am not awakened."

No physical change perhaps, but had they noticed other changes? Curious about this, Avital is seeking them: "I have studied him

political skill which I didn't suppose to find from her." Though he attempts light-hearted masculine jokiness of the "I want my wife at home" variety, he shows sincere awe at his wife's strength of character: "Although I can know only bits of what she has done for me, I can say that on the very first day of our acquaintance I knew that it would be so for the rest of our life. So I was never in doubt that she would do her best for me. But to find her so efficient and so practical... yes, that is a surprise."

She brushes all praise aside, saying that she did only what any wife would have done for her husband. "To be a fighter and a public person, that is not me, and I didn't like it each time I had to force myself to talk to a big audience, to sit with Mrs Thatcher, and so on. Now I have all this experience but I do not want it, I just want to be private. I will help Anatoly to do the work he wants to do to help the Jews who are still in Russia, of course." Even though such campaigning may take him away from her a great deal? She shrugs serenely: "I very much want my husband to be with me, but it is a great cause, an important cause for us, and so I will try to manage."

You would expect Mrs Shcharansky to feel bitter, even in passing, at the thought of all the years that have been stolen from them, yet she rebukes the suggestion. "I do not think like that, not at all. I think that in the future those days will come when we think that those years behind were very important for us. Each human being cannot go through life without trying to discover God's purpose, and I believe that what happened to us did not happen by accident. It is a proof to me that God exists. It is a miracle that we have this after all our work and struggle and faith that Anatoly would one day be free. I am very grateful to God for the miracle."

Anatoly echoes her reaction. "No, the time was not stolen from me. The time is stolen if you do not know what you lived those years for. The time is stolen when you find out nothing about the world and about yourself. The time is lost when it was of no help to those around you. But during that time I could test myself, and find out about myself, and also Avital and I, we lived a real life - real, with real, deep feelings. And I discov-

Anatoly shows awe at his wife's strength of character

to see if he is the same, and so far I think so. But we are not much alone now, I can imagine that as we develop our life together there will be moments when I think he is different. I am interested to discover what he is deep inside him. I feel that there are now even more good things inside him that I can discover. After all we have gone through, we shall be able to sort out any problems we have to know ourselves. It will all work out the right way."

It is clear that Anatoly Shcharansky is impressed by this woman he has met, whom last he knew as a shy art student who had only recently discovered that she was a Jew, and was coming to terms with that. Now, in Israel, she is an important figure in her own right. "When I find out more and more details about her campaign I am really surprised by this tremendous energy. And some



Portrait of happiness: Avital and Anatoly Shcharansky reunited after 11 years of separation

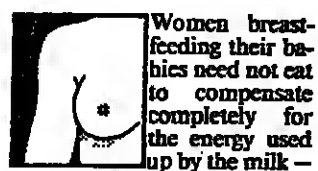
deep striking moment for me." Alone, they talk in Hebrew, though he is rusty, necessitating Russian too, although that language will be abandoned in time. She laughed: "Sometimes, during this crowded week, he has even spoken to me in English." Avital never thinks of Russia; that part of her is buried, gone. She tells the story of the famous writer who asked where he was born, replied

and study, and then I will see influence I can have." As for Russia, he has no desire to deny that part of his life. Avital seems to do: "The grammar my father is in Russia, and my mother lives there, so, of course, my roots are still there. I think I would be a kind of betrayal if I cut myself out of myself. I think that your previous life is nothing. We Jews coming, Israel, we must save our existence of living in the Diaspora gain a better understanding of our problems." And of oppressed peoples? "I have myself able to express my sympathy for people of other national religious identifications."

Throughout the separation, they never felt out of touch

Avital is glad that he left nothing but the book of psalms she gave him years ago, the one which would not allow him to with him into the punishment camp which has come to him. It was who told him always to let psalm 27 for comfort, an old song that he would sing it out of key with his cell, deciding that if he were punished too, there was verse of consolation for the branded as a spy: "Deliver me over unto the will of enemies, for false witnesses risen against me." Now, Avital says, when Anatoly leaves the flat even short while he asks: "When my psalms? I must take it! And he will have them with him the secret holiday destination arrived at yesterday. For Avital is taking one thing - sketchbook hoping at last to become a propaganda symbol for the Russians, and to a lesser extent, the Americans. "I will learn

Mothers with energy to spare



Women breastfeeding their babies need not eat to compensate completely for the energy used up by the milk - their bodies will do it for them. The discovery has been made by a group of obstetricians and scientists in Dundee and published in the current issue of the British Medical Journal. The researchers studied a dozen lactating women, seven women bottle-feeding their babies, and a further seven without babies.

It is commonly accepted that breast-feeding women need to increase their food intake by 500 kcal a day, about 25 per cent above normal. Any shortfall between that and the amount of energy used in milk production will be made up from fat stored during pregnancy.

Two sets of experiments on the Dundee women suggest that breast-feeding women expend energy much more efficiently than either of the other two groups. They seem able to conserve their own energy and use it to subsidize their own milk production.

This idea is borne out by surveys in a number of Third World countries: despite poor diets, women there are still able to nourish healthy babies for the first year of life.

The cause of this change in efficiency remains a mystery, although it may explain one common observation. Some breast-feeding women simply cannot lose weight. They complain of being hungry, but it may be that they are not quite as hungry as they believe. They are simply eating too much to burn up.

Regular checks to control diabetes Keeping the sugar level in the body constant is the key to controlled diabetes and the best chance a sufferer has of staying well. Part of the problem is that most symp-

MEDICAL BRIEFING

ptoms of poor control develop only when the sugar level is far too high, causing blurred vision and excessive thirst, or too low, triggering trembling, sweating and hangover-type headaches. But the diabetes may still not be under control, even when there are no symptoms.

In this month's issue of Balance, the magazine of the British Diabetic Association, Dr Peter Wise, of Charing Cross Hospital, west London, explains why diabetics should not wait for these severe symptoms to develop. Regular, daily checking of the urine is all important. If any of the symptoms do occur then the testing should be increased to every four hours, and if the sugar level remains positive, a doctor should be contacted immediately.

A father's care for the unborn child

It is generally well accepted that an expectant mother increases her emotional attachment to her unborn baby as her pregnancy progresses. Commonsense suggests that this is a natural, protective response designed to ensure that the baby is cared for when it is born. New work from Australia indicates that expectant fathers may respond in much the same way.

Dr John Condon, from Bedford Park, Australia, asked both partners of 54 couples expecting their first child to complete a questionnaire on their feelings towards the baby.

He found that expectant fathers were likely to outwardly admit their feelings. But they were just as attached to the foetus as the expectant

Twice bitten... bats and rabies

Bats in Finland and Switzerland are to be screened for rabies virus after a 30-year-old man who had been bitten by bats in both countries died of the disease. The case reported in the Lancet is the first linked to bats in Europe.

The man died at Helsinki University Hospital last October. He had been bitten in Switzerland by a bat a year before he developed any symptoms of rabies and had been bitten again in Finland.

Doctors from Helsinki say they want to find out more about the virus itself, in particular whether rabies vaccines work against the disease when spread by bats.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

My shocking school rapport

FIRST PERSON

Vivien Tomlinson

I have forgotten the school report which tells me which teachers to see. It has already caused anguish at home with such comments as "frivolous, inattentive and lazy", "hopelessly disorganized approach" and "must learn to control his sense of humour".

It would be an even more incriminating document to bring along since the headmaster's final copper-plated summary has been whittled over with correction fluid and a nearby passable forgery screams: "This is a brilliant pupil!"

After receiving universally dismal news from maths, physics, chemistry, geogra-

phy and Latin, I make for the library. Someone has told me that this is the English queue. We move slowly towards our target - an Irish cleric dressed in black, plum-faced and thin-lipped from aeons of pumping Eng. Lit. into unwilling heads. Thirty-five minutes pass before he raises one eyebrow and I take my place across his desk.

He tells me all the expected things: that my son is a very bad influence on his class, has no aptitude for work and is on course to fail spectacularly.

"I have another thing to tell you", he whispers darkly in a thick Cork brogue. "I believe he might be watching unsuitable videos in his spare time." So that's what he's been doing when he says he's nipping down to the corner cafe, I reflect.

Just then a remarkable thing happens. He refers to

my son by the wrong Christian name. Are we not to about the same dreadful then? My mind goes with fear. The rev brother looks worried, more papers and trace pen down a list of name-bearing becomes badly paired with suppressed rila.

"Is there incest in family?" I hear him. "Good heavens, I should not", I reply. Is he mad?

"Well, if there isn't a in the family - this one one in the sixth form - we are talking about wrong boy", says the man rising and shaking hand. "I must say", he a the blarney surfering, couldn't understand just such a bad pupil could such a nice mother."

During the rest of evening I became even disorganized. I was in five and lazy when it came moving along the line - had one hell of a job controlling my sense of humour. Next time I must try harder.

ELLE IS... THE TALK OF THE TOWNS. New York. Mad, bad and bizarre. Uptown girls go downtown for Mrs Rambo cocktail dresses. Paris. The new-style politicians. Sexy from the socks upwards. London. The Conran fledglings. Facing the music now they've flown the nest. OUT NOW ONLY £1

THE TIMES DIARY

Political strong man

Michael "Tarzan" Heseltine is... in his London flat some...

Like father...

Overmathematics prodigy Ruth Lawrence has leapt to John Carlisle's...

BARRY FANTONI



Takeaway

Get another publishing takeover... Macmillan is to announce...

THE MIRROR

Why has the Mirror... reintroduced the...

DAILY MIRROR

ton vote

Mr Hatton finally losing grip... over power base? After an...

Stop this Sunday steamroller

by Teddy Taylor

Among the government's many problems the Sunday Trading Bill...

I cannot think of anything more damaging to party morale than to be forced to table a "guillotine" motion...

It is not just the so-called "religious" minority who are concerned about what they see as a fundamental change...

shopkeepers believe that legalized Sunday trading will force them, against their will, to open on Sundays...

Is there an escape route for the Government from this damaging confrontation? The most obvious would be to drop the bill...

Allow a free vote? That is the most commonly argued alternative, but in that event many supporters of Sunday trading, heeding objections by constituents...

Limit the size of shops permitted to open or the number of employees permitted to serve the public? Any such plan would be a nightmare for trading standards officers...

My own view, as an opponent of the wholesale removal of shop hour restrictions, is that every district council should be given the right to determine its own shopping hours...

wholesale removal of restrictions would be preferable to local variations, but the inquiry team certainly did not throw out "local option"...

The local option would ensure that local people, whether shopkeepers or shoppers, could have the final say in the pattern of shopping. Councils could hold referenda for guidance...

It will be argued that such variations will produce administrative problems and market distortions. Although open shops in one area might deprive shopkeepers in neighbouring "closed" areas of business...

No solution is ideal. But it seems to me that the quiet of our Sundays is a treasure which local communities should have the right to preserve if they wish...

The author is Conservative MP for Southend East.

Moscow

Next week's 27th Congress of the Soviet Communist Party is confidently expected to be one of the most significant in its chequered history...

Attended by some 5,000 delegates from the 15 Soviet republics, the gathering is dedicated to transforming the life of a nation where a combination of corruption, inefficiency, technological backwardness and bureaucratic indolence have threatened to make a mockery of Soviet claims to offer a superior alternative to capitalism...

Coming less than three weeks before the first anniversary of Gorbachov's takeover in the Kremlin, the Congress will also provide both East and West with an opportunity to assess his achievements at a moment regarded as a watershed in the history of the communist state...

The most urgent problem is the flagging economy. There are serious doubts that improvements of the order sought by the Kremlin can be reached without structural alterations to the centralized system, something Gorbachov has so far shown little inclination to explore...

His most ambitious reform to date has been the brave attempt to cut back on alcoholism. This rapidly reaching epidemic proportions, threatening not only industrial output and family life but also the overall health of the nation...

As the 2,000 journalists accredited to cover the Congress will quickly discover if they attempt to order alcohol in the special press centre, the anti-drink drive is continuing, although its results have been patchy.

Christopher Walker previews next week's Soviet Communist Party congress

Gorbachov's chance to mould a new Russia



Gorbachov, pressing problems to be tackled

Tikhonov, one of the ousted old guard



Soviet military might - soaking up resources badly needed elsewhere

that in many regions, the anti-alcohol campaign is weak. The government daily Ivestia reported last month...

Much more effective have been Gorbachov's unremitting efforts to weed out the nepotism, corruption and other vices which had flourished under his elderly and infirm predecessors...

Closer to the seat of power, Gorbachov quickly engineered the firing of his main politburo rival...

Kremlin-watchers are paying attention to two particular moves, widely publicized in the official press...

The extent to which these two sensitive issues have been aired recently has led some officials to believe that Gorbachov is preparing to take on the entrenched and privileged middle ranks of the party...

Despite the new spirit of openness and self-criticism which Gorbachov has encouraged in the Soviet media, serious doubts remain about the extent to which he will be prepared at this stage to alienate the nomenklatura...

Doubts also bang over his foreign policy programme. During his hectic first 11 months, Gorbachov has chosen to devote more attention than expected to foreign affairs...

With spectacular trips to India and Italy planned for later in the year, and a second summit with President Reagan - widely seen as threatening many more potential pitfalls for the Soviet leader than the first - Gorbachov will have ample opportunity to demonstrate his proven flair for international public relations...

With this in mind, senior diplomats have not been surprised by the harsh line he has adopted in the tit-for-tat expulsions of British, French and Italian representatives from the Soviet capital...

Close attention will be paid to the composition of the politburo to be elected at the finale of the Congress, and which is expected to reflect Gorbachov's tightening grip...

Whether these contradictions can still reassure the Greek left remains to be seen. But they certainly confuse Greece's western allies. The US has therefore played it safe by sending to Athens messages of two distinct options...

Retzay, told a Greek interviewer that if Papandreu terminated the agreement, there was no guarantee that other bilateral agreements, especially those that served Greek interests, would be renewed once they lapsed...

When the US-Greek bases agreement was signed in 1983, banners were strung across Greek avenues and highways proclaiming: "The bases are leaving. Our struggle is vindicated..."

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Alastair Brett Libel lottery due for reform

What do Cecil Parkinson, Bovril, Lord Forte and Trevor Nunn have in common? All were winners in the growth industry of 1985 - High Court libel actions...

Indeed, last year was remarkable for its expensive, glittering and sometimes faintly comical actions. The longest, most expensive and most complicated was Dr Sidney Gee v Esther Rantzen and the BBC over a That's Life programme...

But the media are not the only defendants in libel actions. Norman Tebbit apologized to the chairman of the Prison Officers' Association for a gaffe in a Conservative Party political broadcast...

Another Conservative, Jonathan Aitken, MP for Thanet South, was more successful as a libel defendant in the celebrated and somewhat comical Dallas case brought by Mrs Hazel Pinder-White...

But the idiosyncracies of American libel laws were against him. While he was able to prove that what the magazine had said about him in relation to the massacre of PLO refugees in 1982 was untrue and defamatory, he failed to win a single cent in damages...

Had Sharon been able to bring his claim in a British court there is little doubt that he would have been laughing all the way to the bank (he has since been successful in an Israeli court), but Americans, as in most things, are

moreover... Miles Kingston

RIP M3, gnp and gdp

There was no change in the state of the British economy this morning. It was still in a deep coma. Doctors who had attended it during the night said it had shown no signs of life at any point...

Medical experts are at a loss to explain how an apparently healthy economy can remain totally without signs of life for 30 years, especially as closely related specimens in France and Germany are showing signs of good growth...

Another unexpected theory is that some sort of astral projection is taking place. What we think is the British economy is only the lifeless shell - the real British economy is on a trip to another planet, or Australia, or somewhere. The main proponent of this theory, Professor Andrew Maynard, explains it thus...

"I've been reading this amazing book about astral projection, which says that if you do certain breathing exercises, you can actually become disembodied and travel tremendous distances at incredibly cheap rates. Actually I've only read the first two chapters so far, but I don't see why this shouldn't be the answer, and it certainly makes sense..."

It certainly makes as much sense as any other theory. But as the coma has now continued for so long, there is a growing move to have the economy's life support system turned off and simply let it come to an end. America, Australia and other relatives privately believe that there is no further use for it and no prospect of life returning, and a complete switch-off might be the kindest thing...

"We'd be kinda sorry to see Britain go," says an American spokesman. "We'd miss all the history and old houses and such. That's why we're buying so much of the books, and paintings, and stuff now - get it out while we can. Let's hope they can get the Royal Family out before the switch-off..."

Stop press: A brain scan has revealed that the mental cells of the British economy are working. Surgeons believe it is playing endless episodes of Dynasty to itself and not receiving any messages from the outside world.

Greek choice: bases or bankruptcy

Athens

Economic troubles at home and a gnawing concern about the Greek-Turkish military balance are forcing Andreas Papandreu, Greece's socialist prime minister, to turn to the Americans for help...

Already his domestic credibility has been eroded by the monetarist remedies he has applied to an economy crippled by runaway public deficits and total stagnation. Far from restoring business confidence, the austerity programme has alienated the left-wing trade unionists, who are now ganging up with the communists to fight the wage freeze...

Municipal elections in October could prove a strenuous popularity test for the Socialists. Papandreu would prefer to delay a pledge to the Americans until he is over that hurdle, but Washington wants to know soon whether it should modernize the bases or prepare to transfer them elsewhere: Turkey, perhaps, or Italy, George Shultz, the Secretary of State, will visit Athens next month to demand an answer...

of State, will visit Athens next month to demand an answer...

Four years Papandreu offset the political cost of his occasional U-turns with bouts of anti-Americanism which kept his left happy and hopeful. Then the Americans realized that the cumulative effect of this regular dose of poison on the Greek psyche was even more pernicious than the consequences of Papandreu's non-conformism...

Having muted his anti-Americanism, Papandreu tries to uphold his image by subtler forms of double talk. One is to lavish praise on the Soviet Union for its uniting efforts for world peace, without uttering a single word of censure (or praise) for the US. Another is to reassure western visitors privately of Greece's full co-operation, for instance, in combating terrorism, especially the Libyan strain, then come out publicly and commend Greece's friendship with Colonel Gaddafi...

It was fascinating to watch the downgrading of the recent visit to Athens by John Whitehead, a US deputy secretary of state. First Papandreu feigned reluctance to meet him, then gave simultaneous red carpet treatment to deputy foreign ministers from Moscow and Libya, with state television lingering on the prolonged and cordial handshake between Soviet and Greek ministers...

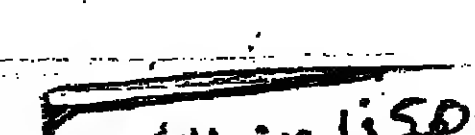
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Mario Modiano





1 Pennington Street, London E1. Telephone 01 481 4100

GOVERNMENT FOR SCHOOLS

The most significant measure of educational legislation since 1944, Sir Keith Joseph said yesterday of his new bill, the largest statutory change since the Butler Act. On the face of it that was an exaggerated comparison. The new bill leaves the shape of the school intact. It alters very little who pays teachers, who grades their work, who appoints the janitor and who comes in to mow the playing fields.

Hire and fire remain pretty firmly in the hands of the councils that are by Sir Keith's admission the guilty perpetrators of politics in education. Responsibility for disciplining and expelling pupils is made little clearer - despite that persisting offence to good school government, the "graffiti case" at Poundswick High School in Manchester.

The bill has the feel of yet another nibble at educational policy. There have been many in the past six years. No one can say that government ministers have stunted at measures. Technical and vocational educational initiative, the core curriculum, records of concrete school achievement, reformation of teacher training... it is a long and impressive list for which Sir Keith in particular often gets too little credit. He sees it bonded together as the pursuit of "standards", a cry with great resonance in the history of a Conservative Party which since the 1950s has stood by without vision or policy while collectivist and egalitarians have reshaped the secondary schools.

But for the public at large this is a mere list. Policy has come to be seen through the prism of the teachers' dispute in which the government's position has been by no means crystal clear. Sir Keith sees his list as a framework but the public - and it seems many of his own party - think policy is random. It is seen, and often correctly seen, as informed by a primordial Tory ambition to escape from the

confines of the publicly provided educational sector altogether.

It need not be that way. If this education bill had appeared seven years ago, at the outset of the administration's policy pre-emption, it would indeed have merited that rather portentous comparison with R.A. Butler's chief work.

For the bill creates a context, a bed for the consummation of what ought to be schooling's happiest marriage: the natural, sometimes passionate, desire of parents for the success and achievement of their offspring and the natural, at best passionate, wish of teachers to have their pupils attain life's prizes through the fullest use of their gifts of character and mind.

That context could be the school board of governors. An entire philosophy of educational progress could have been, and might still be, built around that bumble body. It could be the place where discipline is cherished - and that includes the discipline of the staffroom as well as of the playground. It could be the first court for examining teaching quality. It could be a vehicle for some first steps in endowing parents with a financial right to choose the place of their child's education, perhaps initially by giving parents the discretionary funds that governing bodies are now to have. Governing bodies could, in other words, be a conduit for some partial but effective "voucher" scheme.

There are, unfortunately, some advocates of a voucher scheme for parents whose only motive is to facilitate the transfer from publicly-maintained schools of those able and well-motivated pupils who are the mainstay of a good school's life. Sir Keith has done less than he might to educate those in his own party who still think of educational vouchers as a panacea.

Vouchers are only a mechanism for creating space for the

maximum freedom of parents to choose, and to inject into the running of schools their commitment and enthusiasm. That space is limited, for it has to be found within a common framework of examinations, curriculum, teacher training and now vocational preparation, too. The language of the bill recognises the idea of a common educational floor, denominated in terms of money per pupil or a core curriculum; on this schools should be empowered and encouraged to build by raising money from parents and projects in order to vary and expand their teaching and activities.

Sir Keith could have been more imaginative. He might have gone much further than he has in freeing governing bodies from the shackles of council work practices. They might be allowed to contract out small jobs of repair and refurbishment on the one hand and tasks of out of hours education and supervision on the other.

The education bill 1986 is a positive measure. But it is only an instalment. Educational policy needs two things. One should come from ministers' speeches, and not just education ministers. It is vision. It is a sense of how publicly-provided schools should provide not ephemeral excellence but individual attainment - bow a society which is returning to stony ground for individual flair and energy in economic life must provide tools to hone and shape the qualities of mind and personality which will sustain those individuals when they leave childhood. Those tools are the schools and colleges.

Second, ministers cannot repeat often enough - if they are honest - that changing educational institutions will take time, a long time. There can be no overnight results from changes in the intake to teacher training or reformation of school governing bodies.

THE HILLSBOROUGH CIRCLE

Liaison between the British and Irish governments under the Anglo-Irish agreement continues to produce benefits which, like many anti-terrorist policies, cannot and will not show instant results. Tuesday's announcement by Dr Garret FitzGerald that the Republic will sign the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism (and introduce appropriate domestic legislation) may not alter extradition figures overnight, but it builds two defences against attacks which can be made against a joint inter-governmental approach to security problems.

First, it will be hard for any future government of the Republic of whatever stripe to renege on this commitment. Secondly, it will be that much harder for unionists to allege that the Republic is uninterested in catching and handing over terrorists, and that this reluctance is protected by the constitution. Mr Peter Robinson of the Democratic Unionists may counter

by saying more than signatures and harney are needed to get rid of the IRA, but he is implicitly acknowledging that the south are at least in that business - which is progress of a kind.

Next week, the Prime Minister sees representatives of both unionist parties and Mr John Hume of the Social Democratic and Labour Party. The government is beginning its search for some common ground on which the local political parties can be brought together alongside the Agreement. At the moment, both sides are playing grandmothers' footsteps: Unionists will not talk to anyone about devolved government while the Agreement remains in force. If there is no one to talk to, Mr Hume will not make good his general pledge to talk.

Someone has to break this circle. The heavier obligation rests on the nationalists. No matter how many times the British government stresses the even-handed guarantees affirmed at Hillsborough, the

agreement is seen as having given more to nationalism than to unionism. If the SDLP wants the agreement to survive and thrive, it can only get there by helping redress that imbalance. Mr Hume has to show, publicly, that he is prepared to work in a fair, devolved government.

This week the chairman of the Northern Ireland Police Federation said that his members might find it impossible to police protests against the Agreement if the numbers ranged against them were large enough. All other considerations are liable to be swept aside if this insidious attempt to undermine the Agreement finds support. Quite apart from confirming Catholic suspicions that the Royal Ulster Constabulary is irredeemably sectarian, such confrontation would provide Mr Hume with an alibi for his inaction. If the RUC wishes to continue to call itself "Royal", it had better re-try itself to enforce the laws of Her Majesty's government.

Recovered sounds

From Mr S. E. Dennis
Sir, On my opening a recently purchased second-hand and pre-war book, a sheet of silver paper emerged with that delightful and characteristic tinkling rustle that one remembers produced by the unwrapping of a penny bar of Nestlé's chocolate half a century ago.

By comparison, today's aluminium foil is almost mute and unmusical. Yours etc, S. E. DENNIS, 7 Eldon Grove, Hampstead, NW3.

Green belt pressures

From Mr R. W. Lewis
Sir, In recent months you have published a number of articles reflecting the increasing pressure to release more green belt land in the South-east for housing and industrial development, and illustrating the disparity between housing employment levels and house prices there and in other regions. The study of Crawley by William Greaves on February 7 (unemployment at 5 per cent the lowest in the country, over 3,000 vacancies in the local job centres, a three-bedroom semi selling for £50,000) provides an excellent example of the conflicts which this kind of pressure can generate.

In the current free-enterprise climate there is a grave danger that green belt land will be sacrificed in the name of "job creation" before people have a chance to reflect

that what has caused the present difficulties in places like Crawley is not just prosperity, but a failure to plan how such prosperity in the country as a whole can be maximised by the best use of the available resources of land and manpower.

It cannot make sense to use up the country's finite stock of agricultural land to develop factories when many hundreds of existing industrial buildings are already standing empty, or to build new housing estates to help fill local vacancies when over three million people who already have houses are trying out for a job.

To say, as Mr Greaves quotes the Chairman of Gatwick 2000 as saying, that local employers are there because Gatwick is there and it is no use telling them to move to a depressed area, is merely to underline the failure of economic planners in recent years to follow policies leading to the utilisation of the available resources of the country as a whole, not just the South-east, a failure compounded by the decision to develop Stansted as the third London airport.

The decision to go ahead with the Channel tunnel makes it all the more urgent that the Government look again at the whole question of regional planning. What is required is not a massive increase in subsidies to industry - rather a determined effort to spread to other areas the basic investment which has already created prosperity in the South-east and now threatens to overwhelm it. After all, if the employers are in

Crawley because Gatwick is there, isn't it reasonable to suppose that they wouldn't be there, and the resultant pressure on green belt land wouldn't be there, if Gatwick were somewhere else?

Yours faithfully, ROBIN LEWIS, Managing Director, Physiological Instrumentation, Whitland Abbey, Whitland, Dyfed.

Hard to grasp

From Ms Peggy Pitt
Sir, Now that, with great thankfulness, we find that your affairs are returning to normal, I wonder whether your readers would have time to spare a thought for the old. We find that practically everything we touch, or need, it is impossible to open.

Our arch enemies are plastic bags fitted round with tight-fitting tiny girdles impossible to remove; plastic sheets swathing everything from reels of cotton to weekly magazines; and plastic totally encompassing parcels.

We wrestle with stiff, arthritic, often cold thumbs and try to press packages where it says, "Press to open" but nothing happens.

The only (fairly) sensible remedy is to carry on our persons a pair of scissors or a knife, but, as we often fall, this, too, is hazardous. Yours faithfully, PEGGY PITT, The Glowing Cottage, Wootton-by-Woodstock, Oxfordshire, February 11.

Oil price question over Sizewell

From the Director of the Town and Country Planning Association
Sir, At the public inquiry into the Sizewell B nuclear power station the Central Electricity Generating Board's economic case was founded on its belief that oil prices would escalate during the 1980s and 1990s. Its central projection was that the real price of heavy fuel oil (delivered and taxed) would rise by 61 per cent between 1981 and 1990 and by 141 per cent between 1981 and 2000. It also projected that international coal prices would follow suit, rising by 58 per cent and 150 per cent over the same periods.

On this basis, the board argued both that a nuclear power station would be more economic than a coal-fired station and that electricity would increase its share of the UK energy market from 13.5 per cent to 15.8 per cent between 1981 and 2000.

How different things seem now! Far from rising, the international price of oil has dropped from almost \$30 a barrel in 1981 to

below \$20 and present indications are that it could soon fall to below \$15 a barrel.

Studies carried out for the inquiry by the Cambridge Economic Research Group showed that if oil and coal prices were to remain at their 1981 levels in real terms, the economic advantage of a nuclear over a coal-fired station would disappear. With a reduction in fossil fuel prices, a coal station would become more economic.

Those of us who attended and followed the course of that long inquiry would be interested to know why the board is continuing to place orders for the Sizewell B station as if nothing had changed since it prepared its economic case in the immediate aftermath of the 1979 oil price rise. Does it still believe in the projections it made at that time?

Yours sincerely, DAVID HALL, Director, Town and Country Planning Association, 17 Carlton House Terrace, SW1, February 19.

Selling of water

From Lord Nugent of Guildford
Sir, You publish today (February 14) a letter from the Chairman of the Water Authorities Association, Mr Len Hill, resisting your suggestion, in your leading article on February 10, that an independent public body should be made responsible for safeguarding environmental standards when the water authorities are privatised.

Mr Hill sees this suggestion as a major step towards splitting the existing integrated management of river basins, which has proved so beneficial in the past 12 years.

These two conflicting viewpoints vividly illustrate one of the major dilemmas posed by HM Government's proposal to privatise the water industry. The change from the existing structure, where water authorities are appointed by ministers and responsible through them to Parliament, to a new structure, where the management is primarily responsible to private shareholders, would make a fundamental

constitutional change with implications for the whole management structure. Whereas, at present, environmental safeguards and monitoring are woven into the management operation, in future these would be the responsibility of the new Director General of Water Services or a new independent environmental authority, as your leading article suggests.

In the present climate of public opinion Parliament is likely to insist on robust, independent safeguards both for public health and for the environment, in the event of privatisation. Either this will mean a major duplication of management machinery of the water authorities, or it will mean splitting off this function, as Mr Hill fears. In either case there will be an increase in cost and a loss of efficiency.

Mr Hill's suggestion of a re-think of the policy of privatisation seems apposite. Yours faithfully, NUAGENT OF GUILDFORD, HOUSE OF LORDS, February 14.

Aid for Ethiopia

From Dr Richard Pankhurst and others
Sir, In the most recent of their repeated appeals to Ethiopia's pro-Greater Somalia Horn of Africa Council make a number of tendentious statements (February 18).

Reference to the Ethiopian Government's "armed intervention" in Eritrea, Tigray and Ogadana would lead the reader to suppose that these are foreign countries, whereas they are in fact an integral part of Ethiopia.

The statement that Soviet aircraft are "forcibly moving thousands of Eritreans and Tigreans to inhospitable regions" can scarcely

be supported. The resettlement scheme here referred to does not cover Eritrea. And four times as many come from peaceful Wollo as from Tigray. It is a matter of opinion whether the arid and eroded soil of Tigray is more or less hospitable than the well watered resettlement areas of the south-west.

It is true that Ethiopia was never a British protectorate, but that would scarcely seem a reason to withhold aid from one of the poorest countries in the world. Yours faithfully, RICHARD PANKHURST, GERMAINE GREER, PETER ESMONDE, 22 Lawn Road, NW3, February 13.

Tax returns

From Mr S. A. Jones
Sir, The Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue, Sir Lawrence Airey, should not be "shocked" at the suggestion (Diary, February 5) that the promotion prospects of his tax inspectors are measured by the amount of additional tax they bring in.

Every tax inspector engaged in accounts investigation work knows full well that his future progress in the Revenue depends almost entirely on the "results" he achieves in terms of additional cash (tax interest and penalties) falling due as a result of his intervention. Similarly, every accounts-investigation trainee is made aware that he will not be promoted to inspector on passing his examinations unless he has

achieved the necessary level of "results" from the work allocated to him during his training period.

Sir Lawrence denies that inspectors are paid by commission. He must, however, be aware that inspectors at principal level and above now qualify for "merit" bonus payments - and the Revenue criteria of merit in the examination of business accounts are, 1, the yield from investigation work, and 2, the amount of additional profits brought into charge through technical adjustments in non-investigation cases.

Yours faithfully, S. A. JONES (former inspector of taxes), 60 The Greenway, Epsom, Surrey, February 5.

Barristers' fees

From Mr F. Ashe Lincoln, QC
Sir, Your excellent editorial (February 11) on the subject of fees for the Bar, whilst cogently emphasising some of the basic features of the present controversy, failed to emphasise what is a basic fault of the system of legal aid.

Unhappily legal aid is more costly than it might be for two reasons. Firstly, it is carried on in an unbusinesslike manner and, secondly, it results in very long delays in the payment of barristers' fees. In criminal legal-aid cases a delay of between nine months and a year is not uncommon and in civil cases even longer delays are experienced.

The combination of delays of this magnitude with inadequate fees, with no interest paid on the outstanding fee and the intervening inflation, does result in hardship to the junior barrister.

There can be no doubt that the whole legal profession requires, in the public interest, a form of rationalisation. Almost all legal systems in civilised countries recognise that advocacy is the work of trained advocates. Even in the fused profession in the USA lawyers who specialise in advocacy regard themselves as "trial lawyers".

The logical consequence of this is that all litigation should be in the hands of trained advocates, that is, barristers, to whom the public should have direct access. The Law Society, in their discussion paper, recognised that there is no need in most cases for the employment of both a solicitor and a barrister. The public is entitled to receive the services of the best trained advocates. The remedy lies in the hands of

the Bar itself, which could and should abolish the restrictive practice which requires barristers to be instructed by a solicitor. The logical and economical system would be for the public to have direct access to a barrister who could, if the case required it, employ a solicitor to assist him, just as an accountant may be required to deal with accounts or indeed any other expert in particular fields.

If such a system were introduced it could cheapen litigation and provide a more efficient service. It would clearly require considerable reorganisation of the Bar and of the whole legal system, but with co-operation special arrangements could easily be made for a transition period. Yours truly, F. ASHE LINCOLN, 9 Kings Bench Walk, Temple, EC4, February 14.

Orchestra at risk

From the Chief Conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra
Sir, The threat, which now seems increasingly positive, to the future of the Philharmonic Hall, Liverpool (letter, February 13) is only now impressing itself on the consciousness of the music profession and the public at large.

Around the world, wherever new concert halls have been built, it has been found that the provision of proper concert facilities in itself creates a public eager and adaptable to regular attendance at symphony concerts. In this country we have always taken it for granted that at least the large centres of population will be provided with halls of varying capacities and architectural

Keeping a clear head in cricket

From the Reverend James Funnell
Sir, I know that it is easy to be wise after the event, but should it not be the duty of the captain or the manager of an England touring party, where there are inevitably a limited number of players, to order them all to wear a face mask when batting? Such masks are one of the few advantages of having lived through the Kerry Packer era of international cricket.

I do not imagine that any of the England players will bat against the West Indies, nor indeed any other team, without using the other kind of protector which is available to them. Yours faithfully, JAMES FUNNELL, St James' House, 59a Keoningshall Road, E5.

Avoidable clashes

From Sir Reginald Murley
Sir, Contrary to what Dr Peter Sice avers in his letter (February 13) the education "crisis" (and the NHS "crisis" for that matter) is not purely a crisis of values. The 1944 Education Act and the 1946 NHS Act virtually nationalised the majority of our schools and hospitals.

If Dr Sice prefers to claim that education was standardised rather than nationalised, I shall not argue with him; but experience shows that nationalised schools and hospitals have become battlegrounds for both trades unions and so-called professional bodies. That is something which children and patients could have better avoided.

As for "under-funding" our schools (Mr Downes's letter of the same date), I strongly suspect that the per capita cost of educating a child in a State school (and also of treating a patient in a State hospital) is frequently higher than in comparable independent institutions if the central and local bureaucratic costs are included. Yours faithfully, REGINALD MURLEY, Cobden Hill House, Radlett, Hertfordshire.

Architects' image

From Mr E. Maxwell Fry
Sir, Mr Charles Knevit, in a not unkindly article (February 7), nominates the architect as the "anti-hero" of our times. He speaks well of the social concern of the early Modern Movement and could have noted the corollary of the new towns and the then LCC revival of interest in housing and planning, in and out of the city, including the infilling rather than the needless expansion of villages in the open countryside.

Will these critics of the architect look inward to the chaotic and badly informed times which they have themselves created, to ask themselves, as the present clients of architecture, what they have done, or will do, to see the issues as clearly as our clients and we, their architects, in the years of the movement?

It is easy to make architects the scapegoats and it makes good media news. But before an architect is employed he needs a client, and if clients are bemused, uncaring, swayed by fashion or basically indifferent, what can be expected of their architects?

A client, whatever he, she, or it may be, carries a responsibility that they share with those employed, and I would like to see these responsibilities discussed with a view to the formation of well-based opinions and a movement in the body social that might guide us all in our way to a better architectural inheritance.

May I hope, Sir, that your responsible organ will initiate it? Yours sincerely, MAXWELL FRY, West Lodge Cothelstone, Barnard Castle, co Durham.

Meaningful terms

From Mr K. L. Regan
Sir, I have just been supplied with a bottle of sleeping pills. There is a warning on the label: "These pills may cause drowsiness". Yours faithfully, K. L. REGAN, 16 Shelford Park, Great Shelford, Cambridgeshire.

Staying power

From Mr T. R. Epton
Sir, Mr Arnold Butler's letter (January 16) is likely to bring forth the owner of a blade from a Greek tyre, but, of more recent note, I can report that I maintain in regular use a BSA military bicycle of the twin-tube type that was developed during the Great War and remained in Service use until the Second World War and I also maintain, in "fine" condition, my new National Service boots, which

ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 21 1855

"On this Day" January 27 noted how The Times compelled the Aberdeen government to resign during the war in the Crimea. As the leading article below shows, the paper continued in its campaign against the conduct of the war, in particular the incompetence displayed by the British commanders in the field. Lord Raglan, the commander-in-chief, was the main target. He narrowly missed being censured in the Commons and his recall seemed inevitable; only his death in June prevented that humiliation.

Failures in the Crimea

The causes to which the failure of our recent military operations in the Crimea have been attributed are manifold. Every speaker or commentator, in Parliament or out of it, examines the subject by the light of his own previous ideas or impressions. According to one, the doctors have been to blame according to another, the transport service. A third will tell you that all Lord Raglan, humanly speaking, could be expected to accomplish was to keep a register of the thermometric changes in the neighbourhood of Balaklava amid the corpses of his former legions. A fourth will have it that the Duke of Newcastle was bound not only to remit stores to Balaklava harbour, but to take such precautions that the unfortunate men for whose use they were intended might have reaped the benefit of his labours and his foresight. The aristocratic character of our service did all the mischief - or the disproportionate partition of the work - or the gross incapacity of the motley Staff - or, finally, the inclemency of the seasons and the act of God. We believe that the disappearance of the British forces lately in leagues before Sebastopol is due to this one cause, which embraces all others - that there has not been a single man in the high commands either at home or in the Crimea who was a master of the Art of War. A blue ribbon ribbon of the breast does not make a man a councillor, any more than a red coat and a decoration or two will imply talents for high military command. Whatever Lord Raglan may have been in subordinate commands under the orders of the Duke of Wellington, forty years have elapsed since he obtained his distinctions; and, unfortunately, it is more easy to forget than to acquire. There is no suggestion that our War Ministers at home, either recent or present, ever learned their trade; or, indeed - save we except Lord Palmerston's peaceful service at the War-office - that they ever had an opportunity of learning it. When the whole chapter of prevarication, shuffling, excuse, and declamation against everybody who has dared to censure their acts has been exhausted, it is impossible to extract from it any valid argument in favour of those who despatched a large British force upon an expedition against a formidable fortress in the autumn without having provided for the contingency of a winter campaign. It was surely on the cards that the walls of Sebastopol might not fall down as the walls of Jericho fell of old before the blast of horn and trumpet, and, if the meditated assault was to be converted into a siege, surely the troops engaged in it must be victualled, lodged, and clothed in some form or other. This is what was not done. The probability is, that had a corporal's guard from the Coldstreams been directed against the windmill on Wimbledon common, and had it been so handled, the corporal and his men would have perished by a fate similar to that of the late British army before Sebastopol.

Can any conduct be more worthy of admiration than that of the British soldier, true and faithful even unto death in the flooded trenches and on the chill bivouac? Alas for that burning but misdirected courage! Alas for that touching but useless fortitude! The one and the other are equally thrown away, or serve but to add to the enduring indignation with which every man must think of so dismal a tragedy as the one before Sebastopol. Generals who do not understand the art of war must be employed, and those who do understand the art of war must not be employed.

are now thirty years old and to which are attached a pair of long-billed Canadian ice skates some 70 years old.

In the sharp winter of 1963 these made the epic journey from Magdalene Bridge, Cambridge, to Grantchester and back again. I remember the occasion well because I fell over 37 times in the process. Yours faithfully, T. R. EPTON, 4/5 North Parade, Bath, Avon.

Seen along the line

From Mr J. Pickard
Sir, Dr Fursdon (February 12) is right to cherish nostalgic feelings about the absence of the lonely and hardworking scarecrow. I suspect that it is also sorely missed by some members of the animal kingdom as well: the one recently erected in a field adjacent to my house is at the moment providing invaluable shelter from the east wind for a family of shivering pheasants. Yours faithfully, JAMES PICKARD, Scarlets Cottage, Scarlets Lane, Hare Hatch, Nr Twyford, Berkshire, February 12.

Seen along the line

Among these halls the Philharmonic in Liverpool has for many years been a distinguished centre for music; it seems almost unbelievable that the vagaries of politics can menace the existence of the hall, and indeed the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra itself. Can some prominent influential person, or organisation, help us to channel effort on all sides to avert this calamity? Yours sincerely, JOHN PRITCHARD, Chief Conductor, BBC Symphony Orchestra, Delaware Road, Maida Vale, W9.

THE ARTS

Television
Cynical courtier all in a myth

There are two types of British television comedy, one which assumes that the audience has the educational attainment of a South American sloth, and the other which assumes that the audience has been so chronically over-educated that it will howl with relief at any device which employs the consequent surfeit of facts usefully. *Blackadder II* (BBC1) falls into the latter category.

It is an extended joke about the first Elizabethan Age, a period which many young Britons were forced to study twice over, first under the pretext of history and then under that of Shakespeare.

Someone without this level of sophistication would find nothing amusing in the sight of Gloriana's pendent pearl earrings swinging with histrionic abandon, or in the spectacle of actors in puffy shorts striking poetic attitudes while discussing each other's insecurities. The comedy derives from dressing contemporary attitudes in Elizabethan finery and satirizing the Errol Flynn heroics which Hollywood added to this period's mythology.

In last night's episode the hero, Sir Edmund Blackadder (Rowan Atkinson), has clearly progressed from the character of a double-dyed villain in which he made his first appearance. He is now merely a rather sardonic courtier, who was ransomed from the clutches of a more genuine evil-doer, Ludwig the Indestructible, by his sipping monarch. This was the second series of his adventures and there seems plenty of mileage remaining in the idea.

Yes, *Prime Minister* (BBC2) is a comedy in a class of its own, in that it presumes that its audience is already well educated and able to stand an even greater information overload. Last night's episode concerned the appointment of a new bishop, and had Paul Edgington and Nigel Hawthorne briskly filling in the audience on the appropriate constitutional practice in the kind of exchange which is usually restricted to the recap sequences in American soap operas.

With the numbers thus outlined, the colours could be applied to achieve the normal picture of Sir Humphrey's Machiavellian manoeuvres to achieve his own ends. Statistics were carefully tossed around, suggesting that the Church of England administrators assets of £1.6 billion, and that the job specification was less for a spiritual leader than a corporate executive.

There was a supposition that the information conveyed about the practice of government is correct, but the information given about the theory behind that practice was not to be taken seriously. *Theology* is a device for enabling agencies to stay in the Church, explained Sir Humphrey. "The history of the world is the history of the triumph of the heartless over the mindless", he announced.

At last a suitable man - closely resembling Terry Waite - was chosen but there was still doubt that he was too eccentric. "It's one of those irregular verbs", the junior civil servant observed: "I have an independent mind, you are eccentric, he is round the twist."

Celia Brayfield

WIGMORE HALL
Monday 24 February 7.30 pm
RAIMONDO CAMPISI
piano
Mozart by BREITHOVEN, COPIEN, GERSTNER and FONTANA
with Henry Ford, Judith Ann and Carlo Sala percussion
(19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24)
01-495 2241

MEET BUTTERFLY, TOSCA, MIMI ... AND ME at *Cake Puccini*
WYNDHAM'S Theatre from Feb 23

Cinema: Geoff Brown reviews new releases in London, David Robinson at the Berlinale
Touching achievement for an industry in peril

Year of the Quiet Sun (15) ICA

Crazy Family (18) Metro I

Agnes of God (15) Odeon Haymarket

Mr Love (PG) Warner West End

Since the onset of martial law Poland's leading film directors have become increasingly non-medic, taking themselves wherever money and congenial prospects beckon, keeping channels open with European friends. Andrzej Wajda's recent films have been made in France and Germany; the present film by Krzysztof Zanussi, *Year of the Quiet Sun*, is a Polish-German-American co-production. This eloquent drama about impossible love struggling to flower in the months after the Second World War was filmed in 1984 under watchful Polish eyes. At first the authorities found the project harmless, but their attitude changed once the film was completed and returned from Venice with the Golden Lion prize. Polish films, the authorities reasoned, only seem to win festival prizes in the West if

they adopt a critical tone; and Zanussi's film certainly contains sequences likely to offend the easily-offended. One scene shows the heroine's home viciously ransacked by Communist mischief-makers. The film, at any rate, has been little seen within Poland.

Like Wajda in *Danton* and *A Love in Germany*, Zanussi uses his period setting as a cloak to disguise a harsh commentary on Poland today. Corruption and cruelty run rife through the film's ravaged nook of Europe - previously part of Germany, but now held by Poland and filled with settlers scraping a new life from the ruins. They have little expectation of happiness. Zanussi focuses on two; the widow Emilia, her bond of making do and caring for an ailing mother; and the American soldier Norman, helping with the war crime investigations, haunted by his own past suffering. Neither speaks the other's language, but they grow towards a kinship of feeling. Norman hopes for a future together elsewhere; fate has other ideas.

Maja Komorowska, a frequent player in Zanussi's films, creates a moving portrait of a sensitive woman half-stunted by life. The American actor Scott Wilson, by contrast, is somewhat stiff, though his manner befits a character forced to declare his love through interpreters. Behind these two, Zanussi constructs a dishevelled, demoralized, frightened society where bread, trust and love are equally scarce. His hand perhaps falters in the cryptic epilogue, set in 1964, but *Year of the Quiet Sun* remains a notable achievement for a national cinema in peril.

Sogo Ishii's *Crazy Family* makes an interesting companion-piece to last week's *The Empty Table*. Both films deal with family break-ups; both take serious issue with codes of behaviour in Japanese society. Their aesthetic strategies, however, are far different. In *The Empty Table* the veteran Kobayashi adopts the restrained, classical "art house" manner, with beautiful compositions and a controlled, slow pace. Ishii, not yet 30, opts instead for the brute force of commercial cinema and the frantic energy of youth. The script was developed by a comic-strip artist, Yoshihiro Kobayashi, and he makes no concessions to cinema's own narrative tradition. As in the comics, the action is abrupt, exaggerated, hurled in our faces frame after frame, while the family members are one-dimensional figures governed by obsessions (the range includes material goods, education, fame and fortune, Japan's imperial past, and white ants).

Lest all this sounds tempting, I should add a warning note. *Crazy Family* is a comedy, but the amount of laughing matter is tiny. Only at the bizarre conclusion - when the homeless family lives in barren splendour on waste land - does the director show a firm hand and a visual eye. Elsewhere, he wades through his material with the same noisy abandon as the family's father, who lays into his nearest and dearest with a pneumatic drill. The director Norman Jewison made his reputation with *In the Heat of the Night*, *The Thomas Crown Affair* and such - meretricious films with wide audience appeal. Now he has retreated to sober ventures in the dwindling middlebrow market. Like its predecessor *A Soldier's Story*, *Agnes of God* derives from a worthy Broadway play, brimming with issues. Jewison's screen treatment takes full advantage of the wistful setting - a Montreal convent - but the piece remains in essence a triangular talk-show between Agnes (the childlike novice who mysteriously gives birth),



Maja Komorowska movingly sensitive in *Year of the Quiet Sun*, with Jerzy Stuhr

the Mother Superior and a woman psychiatrist trying to test Agnes's sanity. "I am not from the Middle Ages", snaps Mother Miriam. So it goes on, tit for tat, scene upon scene - a boxing match between faith and reason. Anne Bancroft gives a fiery, rounded portrayal as the Mother Superior, anxious to protect innocence in a whorish world, but Jane Fonda turns the psychiatrist into a humourless old stick. For the record, the father of Agnes's child - judging strictly by the visual evidence - seems to be a dove.

Mr Love comes from David Putnam's Enigma company, and bears all the hallmarks. Like the *First Love* television film, it tells of quirky emotional attachments; the hero is a municipal gardener to

Dramatic recitation

L. Anatolia Elizabeth Hall

Coinciding with the official visit of the Turkish Prime Minister, the leading Turkish actress Yildiz Kenter is giving a one-woman show which celebrates the "indomitable spirit" of Anatolian womanhood down the millennia. Anatolia is the historic name of Asian Turkey, the vast bulk of the modern state excluding the area this side of the Bosphorus to which the Greeks would like to bear gifts. It is a region of delectable food and haunting landscapes (to quote the brochure); it is also a country where, despite Mr Turgut Ozal's current mission to sanitize his international image, political repression is rife. This point was left to the leaflet-pushers outside the theatre on Wednesday. Miss Kenter, the "State Actress" of 1981, contents herself with a travelogue-style pageant presenting scenes from the lives of 16 mythical and historical heroines which stops short at 1922.

There certainly are some remarkably spirited characters on display; the ancient goddess Cybele; the fertility queen of the Hittites Pudebara (for whom Miss Kenter dons a golden crown and cracks a hull-wbip); King Midas's ebony hairdresser (the one subject, in other words who rumbled the secret of the ass's ears beneath his Phrygian cap); Andromache; Niobe; the Empress Theodora; the world's first woman historian, Anna Comena. What a lineup.

The monologues that convey these potted histories, written by Gungor Dilmen and translated by Talat Sait Halman, would not, one cannot but think, make a particularly riveting read. The artistic purpose of the evening is surely to give a mature and widely experienced player the opportunity to rehearse her portfolio of acting techniques. One is left feeling that it would be interesting to see her in a real play.

George Cole is currently appearing at the Duchess in *Month of Sundays* which reviewed under its original title *The First Sunday in Every Month* when it opened at the Nuffield, Southampton.

Martin Cropper

German history looming large

German history figures large in this year's festival. A quick count reveals no fewer than 20 films concerned with Germany's role in the Second World War - and that is without including the hundreds of films that are screened on the margin of the festival, in the film market.

Nazi nostalgia reaches its nadir in *The Berlin Affair*, in which Liliana Cavani returns to the mixture of sex and fascism she dished up so

freshness in the first feature film of Wieland Speck, a young German director who has previously made some creditable underground shorts. *Westler* is a romantic love story of two young men, one from West Berlin and one from the East. Through this small personal story Speck tellingly demonstrates the cumulative effect of inhumanity and indignity in the rituals of border checks and searches. Rough, made on a shoestring and using 8mm clandestine footage shot in the East, it is a confident, touching, intelligent and promising work. - D.R.

profitably in *The Night Porter*. Based on a Japanese novel, *The Buddhist Cross* by Junichiro Tanizaki, it is an absurd farago about a demonic Japanese *femme fatale* and sex to the top diplomatic echelons of late-Thirties Germany. Gudrun Landgrebe struggles gamely to give a serious performance against all the odds of a ludicrous script and a cast of inept actors. A different aspect of German history is treated with admirable

Theatre
Hostile response

Three Sisters Royal, Bristol

Launching the Bristol Old Vic's fortieth anniversary season, Paul Uowin's production sports some leading names and passages of memorably truthful acting; none of which compensates for its confusingly over-simplified approach to the play.

Mr Unwin has rightly noted that one of its key elements is indifference. With the exception of Natasha, the only character who achieves anything, the rest of the household shrug off their defeats and frustrations by affecting not to care. Chekhov supplies them with a choric line rendered in Richard Cottrell's translation as "It's all the same, anyway", a line one comes to dread as it means that the action will grind to a halt to give it sledgehammer emphasis. At the end, Chekhov even puts his newspaper down and barks the fine straight to the house.

At the same time the performance takes note of the characters' coexisting passions. But its way of handling these is to play them full out with no thought of the subtlety. To choose one perhaps unfairly glaring example from Act III: when Natasha passes through with a lit candle, and Masha says it looks as if she started the fire, Olga (Jill Brassington) instantly says "On the stupid". Such a hostile response would have made it impossible for Masha to confess her love for Vershinin. And when she does so it creates another of the emotional breaks that disfigure so much of the narrative line.

The sense of watching isolated figures rather than a group is intensified by the judgemental quality of the playing. It has been decided that some characters are more sympathetic than others. So Chekhov's ill-favoured, ineffectual Barov becomes a forceful and upstanding idealist in the hands of Robert Hickson; and Peter Copley's Chebutikhin combines expressions of indifference with growls of hostility when dealing with the supremely dislikeable Solonyg of Martin Clunes. On the night of the fire, Chebutikhin even approaches the wash-basin with blood up to his elbows as if he has been working with the casualties, whereas the point of the scene is to show that he turned his back on the disaster and got drunk. As for poor Natasha, with all her faults she hardly

deserves Alwynne Taylor's treatment as a buxom, monumentally self-satisfied matron whom Andrei would never have fallen for in the first place. Where such schematic loyalties do not impose themselves, the play springs resiliently back to life: as where the sisters tease Chebutikhin about his unpaid rent (very refreshing and entirely just to treat this as a family joke), or pursue the fleeing Andrei to haul him back into the party.

With no sign of excess fat or mental lethargy, Tooy Robinson is a startling Andrei, but it makes good sense to see him as a sharp, bird-like creature, caught in a disgusting trap but still capable of making witty escapes to town and keeping up childhood games with his old nurse. Paul Moriarty is an uninteresting Vershinin, notable only for his extreme contempt for the Baron. But he makes a fittingly unattainable partner for Harriet Walter's Masha, a performance of incurably restless energy and malign watchfulness, recoiling in nausea from her husband's touch and viewing her sisters' hopes with the dull eye of one who has long since abandoned such delusions.

Irving Wardle

Bailegangaire Donmar Warehouse

The central presence in Tom Murphy's new play is that of the almost bedridden grand-mother rising up from her nest of sheets and bolster to repeat yet again the tale she has told a hundred times, a thousand times. She has told it nightly, for years, with all the raconteur's mania for minute detail, so that her two stricken granddaughters have long known the major part of it by heart.

But, as we gradually surmise, it is that short part of it that they do not know, because Mommo has always shielded off the conclusion, pleading tiredness, sinking down, pulling the covers over her head - it is that constantly omitted final outcome that is the crucial detail. And, by the refusal of its entry to her tale, to her memory, to the collective memory of the family, all three surviving members of it are maimed. Literary analysts and students of structure can no doubt write their theses on aspects of this exceptionally interesting play. The telling of



Siobhan McKenna: a mind-gripping achievement as Mommo in *Bailegangaire*

a tale as the ancestor of drama. The tale as memory, memory as therapy. But what is so immediately rewarding is the dramatic charge of the occasion - delivered primarily by Siobhan McKenna's mind-gripping achievement as Mommo.

Like the reaction of most of the wedding guests to the Ancient Mariner, one's response to the first part of her saga is glazed with panic. One has known that crazed eye in life, that gabbling tongue endlessly circling some point. There is something witchlike about her trembling fingers, her sidelong glances as she speaks now to the quilt, now to the floor, speaking from some long-unspoken past: the night of a fair, a decent stranger and his decent lady, and a laughing contest that led to tragedy.

The booms and cackles of her laughter, the invention and variety of tone that enable her to people the remembered scene, all are conjured up to her unstrained, unflinching voice. Mommo's elder granddaughter, once a nurse, insists that the tale be finished, and so the play closes in a scene of reconciliation and hope. Marie Mullin presents an intense performance in this role and, as her over-fertile sister, Mary McEvoy gives strong support. The dialogue is grimly funny, laughing at the tragedy of existence. "What use is Mommo?" asks "What utility the earwig?" The sense of life flowing and turning is conveyed so powerfully in Garry Hynes's direction that the play, fresh from its premiere in Galway, genuinely earns the cliché tag of an unforgettable occasion.

Jeremy Kingston

YMSO/Blair Festival Hall

Mahler's Sixth Symphony, the most savagely pessimistic of the whole cycle, exposes weaknesses in the most experienced orchestras. But the Young Musicians' Symphony Orchestra exists precisely to stretch its budding professionals, and they emerged from this 90-minute ordeal with distinction.

I listened particularly closely to the upper strings, partly because the Sixth gives them greater domination over the

Songmakers' Almanac Wigmore Hall

Gounod's stormy liaison with the formidable Mrs Georgina Weldon gave the Songmakers' Almanac another excuse for some satin-trimmed musical voyeurism. The titillation crept even beyond the grave: we had the pleasure of hearing one of the poems the dead Gounod dictated to a certain Charlotte who, for a sum, would in turn pass them on to Georgina.

When not busy modelling for Pears soap, crusading for law reform, running her orphanage or spending time in Holloway, Mrs Weldon - or so Graham Johnson's enter-

tainment would have us believe - gloried in her megalomaniacal maternalism over Gounod. He, in return, did his bit for the posturing paternalism of his age: his setting of Lord Houghton's salon obsequy for David Livingstone. "The swarthy followers stood aloof, unled, unfathered!", lived up to expectation, and so did Martyn Hill's performance. The piece was, apparently, written on the beach at St Leonards.

Quite properly it was the compilation, not the performing, which did the sending up. Johnson was, for once, absent: his mastery of ceremonies was missed, but Clifford Benson's piano-playing, with its miraculously varied approach to Gounod's "oom-pom-poms", was greatly appreciated. So,

wind chorus than in earlier Mahler symphonies, but mostly because of the current belief that Britain is not producing enough outstanding orchestral string players. In general these students were impressively neat, unified and taut, even under the pressure of altitude. The ravishing Andante tune was played with much tonal refinement and there was (as far as one could judge) little fudging of the French semiquaver rushes underlying the great brass outbursts.

A little more risk-taking would have added spice, especially to the cross-string appoggiaturas which so frequently punctuate the violin melodies, but what the strings chiefly lacked was basic power. Only occasionally did the bows bite with passion.

Elsewhere there were plenty of extroverts at large. The horns whooped audaciously and mostly successfully. The trombones and tuba negotiated their nightmare ending well, and the woodwind's ensemble and intonation went awry only in the Scherzo, perhaps through over-enthusiastic emphasis on grotesque elements.

James Blair kept his huge forces under tight control, pacing the opening march sensibly (somewhere between Soli and Horenstein) and drawing the Andante to a glorious late flowering after a rather cool start. The Scherzo and introduction to the Finale were less convincingly managed, but once the music came under the hammer the orchestra played with ever-increasing conviction. What electrifying hammer-strokes they were, too, more than compensating for some peculiarly clanking cowbells earlier.

Richard Morrison

Hilary Finch

Concerts

Wigmore Hall
Monday 24 February 7.30 pm
RAIMONDO CAMPISI
piano
Mozart by BREITHOVEN, COPIEN, GERSTNER and FONTANA
with Henry Ford, Judith Ann and Carlo Sala percussion
(19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24)
01-495 2241

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The Perfect Partner!
Enjoy stunning dance partnered with a glorious variety of music in three new shows from New York
American Ballroom Theatre with The Pasadena Roof Orchestra
April 10-19 7.30 (Sat Mat 2.00)
Evokes memories of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers at their best. "SHEER DELIGHT" New York Times
Rosaldin Newman and Dancers
April 29-May 3 7.30
Expressive dance to music ranging from Vivaldi to Buddy Holly "AN INTRIGUINGLY OFF-BEAT BEAUTY" Chicago Sun Times
Bill T Jones, Arnie Zane and Company
May 6-10 7.30
A virtuoso programme of dance and humour "PHYSICALLY IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE TO MARVEL AT" New York Times
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Fri 28 Feb 7.30 pm MANCHESTER, Royal Northern College of Music 061-273 4954
Sat 1 Mar 8.00 pm BIRMINGHAM, Theatre Arts Centre 021-359 3979
Sun 2 Mar 7.30 pm LEICESTER, Haymarket Theatre 0533-537777
Mon 3 Mar 8.00 pm COVENTRY, Arts Centre, University of Warwick 0203-417471
Wed 4 Mar 8.00 pm SHEFFIELD, Leadmill 0712-754500
Sat 6 Mar 8.00 pm SOUTHPORT, Arts Centre 0704-40011
Sun 7 Mar 8.00 pm LEEDS, Civic Theatre 0532-462675
Wed 12 Mar 8.00 pm NEWCASTLE, People's Theatre 0532-323596
Further details from the Contemporary Music Network, Arts Council of Great Britain, 185 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AL Tel: 01-469 0495

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1233.2 (-1.9)

FT-SE 100
1492.1 (+0.7)

USM (Datastream)
114.28 (-0.17)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.4520 (-0.0055)

W German mark
3.3483 (+0.0041)

Trade-weighted
74.7 (+0.2)

Indicators 'volatile'

The index of longer leading indicators of the British economy fell from 106.1 in December to 104.8 in January, and the shorter leading index from 97.7 to 96.4.

Date fixed for gilts switch

Official business in the gilt market will be handled by a new dealing operation in the high-edged division of the Bank of England from close of business on March 21.

Meuvier-Swin, which designs and manufactures emergency lighting and fire alarm products from its base in Banbury, Oxfordshire, intends to enter the Unlisted Securities Market via a placing sponsored by J Henry Schroder Wagg in March.

French record

The CAC Index of French shares surged to its highest ever level of 306.7 points yesterday, from the previous peak of 302.6 set on Wednesday.

SE service

Barclays and NMW Computers are at an advanced stage in discussions on forming a joint company to provide settlement and clearing services for stockbrokers trading on the Stock Exchange.

Canal stake

Higams, the private company of Mr John Whitaker, the chairman of Trel Holdings, has increased its stake in the Manchester Ship Canal Company to give it 27 per cent of the voting rights.

BOC advance

BOC, the industrial gases, health care and carbon group, made pretax profits of £37.9 million for the three months to December 31, up from £33 million. Turnover improved from £533.6 million to £552.6 million.

Tower plan

Plans to redevelop the Daily Telegraph site in Fleet Street have narrowly won the approval of the City of London Corporation's planning committee.

Coca-Cola bid

Coca-Cola said it has reached a preliminary agreement to acquire Dr Pepper, the American soft drinks company, from Forstmann Little and senior managers of Dr Pepper for \$470 million (£320 million), including payment of about \$170 million of Dr Pepper's debts.

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	12½%
Adrian & Company	12½%
BCCI	12½%
Cash Bank Savings	12½%
Consolidated Crds	12½%
Continental Trust	12½%
Co-operative Bank	12½%
C. Hoare & Co	12½%
Lloyds Bank	12½%
Nat Westminster	12½%
Royal Bank of Scotland	12½%
TSB	12½%
Citibank NA	12½%

† Mortgage Base Rate

BP defends petrol prices despite record profits

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

BP yesterday announced record profits of £1.6 billion and defended its decision not to cut prices at the petrol pumps more quickly.

The announcement came against a background of tumbling world oil prices and pressure on oil companies to reduce petrol prices.

Most of the improved profits came from what the industry describes as "downstream" operations - converting crude oil into products such as petrol, home heating oil, plastics, detergents and chemicals.

Sir Peter Walters, the chairman, said that the return on BP's investments in refining operations were "about the right level".

Sir Peter said: "Looking ahead to 1986 our exploration and production business will generate lower profits to the extent that crude oil prices are generally lower in 1986 compared with 1985."



Sir Peter returns on investment about right

Overall profits would have been even better last year, but the company wrote off £929 million on restructuring its American subsidiary Sohio, and its chemicals and coal businesses.

be reviewed, although no projects were in danger of being cancelled.

The detailed profit figures of BP underline the remarkable turn round in the profitability of the petrol refining and sales operations.

After years of low returns petrol sales have made substantial profits because of falling crude prices and, BP says, the cut in manpower at refineries.

BP's exploration operating profits rose 3 per cent to £1.4 million.

The company's oil trading operations made significantly improved profits and BP Gas increased its profit margins by one third to £129 million.

BP Chemicals maintained its profitability at £67 million, although operations in minerals cancel that out with a loss of £67 million.

However, profits on coal rose to their highest ever at £28 million and Sohio contributed £814 million.

Slow growth hits dollar as Baker urges deficit cut

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The dollar dropped sharply in nervous trading yesterday as dealers digested news of slower-than-expected growth in the US economy late last year and attempted to reconcile conflicting statements by top administration officials over the direction of exchange rates.

US Commerce Department officials disclosed yesterday that real gross national product in the final quarter of last year grew by only 1.2%, just half that forecast, as a result of a sharper-than-expected rise in the trade deficit. Net US exports dropped by \$1.2 billion in the fourth quarter instead of the estimated \$7.8 billion.

The Treasury Secretary spoke before testimony by Mr Paul Volcker, the Federal Reserve Board chairman, who indicated on Wednesday that he was not anxious to ease credit further because he feared the dollar's recent plunge could become unmanageable.

Markets reacted strongly that comment, taking it as a sign that neither credit nor US interest rates would be eased short term. In addition, the statements were regarded as a strong signal that the dollar would have an important impact on US monetary policy in the months ahead.

Rank buys leisure operation

By Our City Staff

English China Clays has sold its leisure division comprising HL Holdings and its subsidiary Haven to Rank Holdings, a subsidiary of Rank Organisation, for £37.5 million cash.

Haven operates 16 self-catering holiday parks in the United Kingdom, trading as Haven Holidays and 388 boats on the French canals and Norfolk Broads trading as Blue Line Cruisers. It also markets holidays in France and Spain under the names of Haven Abroad and Haven Vacances.

Net assets were £34 million at December 31 and Haven's operating profit for 1984-1985 was £3.6 million on a turnover of £20.82 million.

Proceeds of the sale of Haven will be used to promote the growth of the core business.

UK bank near to Docklands deal

By Judith Hamley, Commercial Property Correspondent

One of Britain's big four clearing banks is to take a significant amount of space in the 10 million sq ft financial services centre planned for Canary Wharf in London's Docklands.

Mr G Ware Travelstead, who is spearheading the development for the consortium of foreign banks involved in the £1 billion project, said yesterday that the deal would be announced within the next few days. But the scheme still hinges on the Docklands Light Railway now being built from the Isle of Dogs enterprise zone, which contains Canary Wharf, to Tower Hill in the City of London.

The consortium, which includes Credit Suisse and First Boston with Morgan Stanley as a prospective tenant, is spending about £74 million to extend the rail link to Mansion House next to the Bank of England. The project will not go ahead unless this extension is approved by Parliament.

Mr Ware Travelstead, of First Boston Real Estate, says that Canary Wharf will be financed on 15-year fixed interest money, and that occupiers will be offered a 15-year lease with no rent reviews along American lines.

He has yet to sign the agreement to buy the 71-acre freehold site from the London Docklands Development Corporation but he says that will be done once the rail extension is approved.

The consortium says it has occupiers for 4 million sq ft of its development from firms which cannot find the right kind of space in the Square Mile ahead of big bang.

EEC may check Japan's imports

By Michael Prest, Financial Correspondent

Britain will press at the next meeting of EEC foreign ministers for regular monitoring of Japan's progress towards opening its markets to exports, Mr Alan Clark, Minister for Trade, said yesterday.

He said that the EEC was keen on setting an import target, against which the liberalisation of the Japanese market could be measured. Japan's action programme is supposed to tackle such barriers to imports as tariffs, quotas, public sector purchases, and import promotion.

Mr Clark said that he would like to look at ways in which decisions to fund exports under the Aid for Trade Provision, which comes under the Overseas Development Administration budget, could be speeded up.

The Department of Trade and Industry has been interested for some time in bringing ATP more under its control. Mr Clark said he would like to see the aid component in export finance increased.

Mr Clark, who became Minister for Trade only last month when Mr Paul Channon succeeded Mr Leon Brittan as Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, also criticised restrictions on exports of technology to the Soviet bloc.

Dr Fritz Leutwiler, who is acting as intermediary between South Africa and its bank creditors, said: "This was an interim measure designed as a step towards normality in South Africa's external financial arrangements."

He said the agreement was conditional on clear progress by South Africa towards abolishing apartheid.

Dr Leutwiler said that a meeting in London yesterday between South African government officials and 30 major creditor banks reached broad agreement on a set of repayment proposals.

It was not a formal rescheduling agreement, and involved individual arrangements between banks and their debtors.

Of South Africa's \$10 billion short-term debt, 5 per cent would be repaid between the end of March and March 31, 1987, with the rest rolled over for another year.

The interest charged would be limited to 1 per cent above the amount charged on the loans when South Africa first introduced its "standstill" on repayments last summer.

South Africa has external debts totalling \$24 billion but the standstill applies only to \$14 billion.

Dr Leutwiler said the banks would now form a committee to work out the details.

He said that politics had not been discussed at the meeting but had formed the background.

The meeting also agreed that the situation would be reviewed before next February.

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Whisky firm's plan to avoid Monopolies bar

The Government's rather mechanistic attitude to competition in merger policy (save in the Allied-Lyons case) is allowing the new highly competitive and ingenious folk in the City to treat the policy with a contempt it may well deserve.

The technique is to sell off just enough combined market share to climb out of reference to the Monopolies Commission. The Guinness camp, managed by Morgan Grenfell, has now emulated the unilateral plea bargaining pioneered by oooe other than Morgan Grenfell in its role as adviser to United Biscuits.

The scheme dreamt up to avoid the new Guinness bid for Distillers being sent to the Commission is oot so convincingly clear cut as the straightforward plan to separate United's KP from Imperial's Golden Wonder snacks.

Pulling together a series of secondary brands with associated bottling and blending plants for Morgan Grenfell to sell, at whatever they will fetch, neatly cuts the share of the home whisky market of the combined group below 25 per cent.

Most of the 13 per cent share of the market being sold, however, is simply in discount brands that sell strictly oop price. World-wide rights would be divested only in Claymore and John Barr, though that ood be oo business of the Commission.

Certainly the divestment should cause little pain to Guinness/Distillers from a marketing point of view since the market share could easily be recouped if required.

If the OFT line is as mechanistic as it seems, however, a Government refusal to accept the straight divestment of market share would make it appear even more to be taking sides.

Assuming the ploy is successful, the bid competition is oo again with a vengeance, even if Grand Metropolitan decides oot to make it a three-way fight. Guinness has a stroog edge oo cash alternatives. Its 630p per Distillers share compares with 600p from Argyll. That may turn out to be more significant than the relative oominal values of the share-based packages, where at present 648p from Guinness compares with 635p from Argyll.

The oew profit forecast from Distillers gives scope for further bids. Lower pension costs offset adverse currency movements to allow a forecast of £280 million pretax against £236 million and a helpfully low tax charge coverts that into earnings of 50.66p per share against 37.7p. The Guinness cash offer would therefore be only 1.24 times forecast oominal earnings.

Against that, however, it is becoming a lot harder for the rivals to underwrite higher bids. Distillers comes to be an ever higher proportion of the merged companies as the bids increase, so higher share offers could soon begin to sag under their own weight. That consideration applies particularly to Argyll, which could see a retail share rating being heavily diluted. The lack of response of Distillers shares to yesterday's developments suggests the market is sceptical, but that allows the rivals to pick up shares in the market. The Argyll camp revealed almost 3 million more yesterday, bringing its holdings up to 13 million. Argyll certainly needs to save a little money. It could find itself buying up to £40 million of the costs of the Guinness bid if it wins the day.

Changes are urgently needed in the Bill. SROs and their members are most reluctant to leave unclear passages to the interpretation of the SIB, lest a future government should use the SIB against the City. As spokesman-designate for the City, the SIB should use all its influence to ensure that the bill, when enacted, is as complete as possible.

One might expect Ian Steers, the spokesman for the International Securities Regulatory Organization, to make such a claim. But the ISRO's argument yesterday that all SROs are affected by these four points is correct. The lead regulator concept - oow restricted to governing capital adequacy - has oot settled the question of how many SROs a firm might have to join. Nor is the Government's lack of concern over the failure to grant indemnity to SROs bolstering confidence in the Bill.

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Lyons is not due to be decided on by the Commission until June. Mr Elliott, in London this week to announce Elders' interim results and to see the Commission today, is confident he will cooivce the Monopolies men of the financial soundness of his bid. The reference was made because of fears about gearing levels, Mr Elliott claims.

The reasons for his confidence are not entirely obvious. Elders' debt/equity stands at a hefty 100 per cent and Australian interest rates are a steep 20 per cent. The company managed to increase interim pre-tax profits by 41 per cent to A\$73.8 million (£36.4 million), although operating profits from pure trading were down 5.8 per cent at A\$119.7 million.

Even if the Commission were to be cooivced by Elders' 350-page submission, the battle for Allied is a very long way from being won. Allied's shares rose 3p yesterday to 286p, putting the company well out of reach of Elders' 255p a share bid. There must be some coooolation in the fact that Elders is showing a £32 million profit on its 6 per cent stake.

Mr Elliott would not be drawn on his interest in the Imperial bid scene. His previous agreement to sell Allied's food division to Imperial looks somewhat hypothetical at the moment, although he claims there are more than 10 interested buyers for the division. On an even more speculative oote, Mr Elliott is believed to be interested in Courage, if chunks of Imperial were ever to be sold off.

Time is running short for the Financial Services Bill, which is due to be passed into law by the middle of the year. There are still four important outstanding questions which the parliamentary draftsmen do oot seem to be able to solve in words acceptable to the relevant sections of the City. Yet there still seems to be a disconcerting lack of urgency at the Securities and Investment Board.

The issues are: defining a professional trader as distinct from an occasional or private user of a market; the related need to distinguish in the rules between primary and secondary markets; defoecating the responsibilities of self-regulatory organizations; and granting SROs indemnity.

All the designated SROs accept the premise of the legislation, that it should protect the private investor. But rules protecting the private investor can be a serious competitive handicap. Thus Eurobond houses are again giving warning that prohibitions on them against cold-calling the chairman of ICI could drive the business, which last year issued £80 billion of bonds from London, out of the City.

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S Africa agrees solution on debt

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

South Africa yesterday reluctantly agreed a solution to its refusal to repay \$10 billion short-term foreign bank debt.

Announcing the temporary arrangement, Dr Fritz Leutwiler, who is acting as intermediary between South Africa and its bank creditors, said: "This was an interim measure designed as a step towards normality in South Africa's external financial arrangements."

He said the agreement was conditional on clear progress by South Africa towards abolishing apartheid.

Dr Leutwiler said that a meeting in London yesterday between South African government officials and 30 major creditor banks reached broad agreement on a set of repayment proposals.

It was not a formal rescheduling agreement, and involved individual arrangements between banks and their debtors.

Of South Africa's \$10 billion short-term debt, 5 per cent would be repaid between the end of March and March 31, 1987, with the rest rolled over for another year.

The interest charged would be limited to 1 per cent above the amount charged on the loans when South Africa first introduced its "standstill" on repayments last summer.

South Africa has external debts totalling \$24 billion but the standstill applies only to \$14 billion.

Dr Leutwiler said the banks would now form a committee to work out the details.

He said that politics had not been discussed at the meeting but had formed the background.

The meeting also agreed that the situation would be reviewed before next February.

Dr Fritz Leutwiler, "a step towards normality"

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WALL STREET

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 20.53 to close at 1,658.74 on Wednesday. There were 687 issues advancing, 1,003 declining and 354 unchanged.

The American Stock Exchange volume totalled 14,683,170 shares, compared with 15,778,700 on Tuesday. There were 282 issues advancing, 354 declining and 210 unchanged.

Volume totalled 152.03 million shares, compared with 160.2 million shares on Tuesday. The NYSE composite index was 174.75, down 1.35. The average price per share was down 41 cents.

Table with columns for stock symbols (e.g., AMR, AIG, AXP) and their respective price changes and closing prices.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Table showing Sterling Spot and Forward Rates for various currencies including New York, London, and other international locations.

COMMODITIES

Table listing commodity prices for items such as Rubber, Gas-oil, Sugar, and other raw materials.

MONEY MARKETS AND GOLD

Table detailing money market rates, including Euro Money Deposits and Dollar Spot Rates for various currencies.

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing various investment trusts and their performance metrics, including assets under management and returns.

COMMODITIES

Table showing prices for various commodities like Zinc, Lead, and Tin, along with their respective market status.

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Table listing financial trusts and their performance, including details on assets and liabilities.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Table providing data on London financial futures, including three-month and six-month rates for different instruments.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Large table listing various unit trusts and their performance, organized by category such as Equity, Bond, and Money Market.

The prices on this page relate to Wednesday's trading.

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

By Teresa Poole
A detailed regional approach to the problems of small businesses is to be launched on March 3 by the Social Democratic Party and the Liberals. The Worksearch project is the result of 18 months of consultation with members around the country on how to combat unemployment. Central to the Alliance's policy will be greater emphasis on helping existing

Big ideas for little operators

small businesses to expand, including training for those already in business. In keeping with their philosophy of decentralization, the proposals are likely to include the setting-up of regional development agencies which would be responsible for training, industrial development, investment in

companies with their exports. The Alliance is also worried that there is a shortage of small premises for start-up businesses and not enough low-level venture-capital support. The regional policies will be presented at a series of conferences in Glasgow, Leeds, Cambridge, London, Manchester and Liverpool, chaired by SDP president Shirley Williams.

By Hazel Shaw
John Lister mills 28 tons of pure stone-ground flour each year at Shipton Mill, near Tebury in Gloucestershire, and has more than doubled his annual turnover since starting as a miller in 1982.

John's mill grinds out a profit

From studying anthropology at Cambridge to flour power, using an old plant but modern ideas: John Lister at his Tebury mill



Before that he read anthropology at Cambridge. Then he and a friend set up a painting-and-decorating business in London, which developed into an interior-design firm. It was this first successful enterprise that enabled him to venture into milling.

He said: "We were lucky to find cheap derelict buildings in an idyllic setting within easy reach of the M4, and some redundant machinery from Spillers." In the 1940s factory equipment, being made to last, was very sturdy so though expensive to renovate, it proved cost-effective to run.

Mr Lister started milling at a good time. Health-education programmes stressing the desirability of the most natural foods have continued to ensure a demand for his product.

As Mr Lister sets up, big millers, with machinery set up to refine white

flour, produce brown flour by putting back into white all the ingredients which they have already spent money removing. That means they are obliged to charge more for brown flour, he says.

"White flour is sold at a lower price than brown, yet the cost of refining it is higher. From my point of view, we have a cheap site, cheap machinery and none of the heavy overheads of the large millers, so we can produce

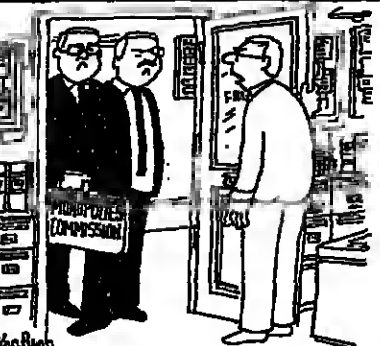
good, stone-ground flour competitively."

He operates along the M4 corridor from London to Cardiff, selling mainly to small family bakers and shops. He said: "We are lucky in that the whole of the M4 corridor is a fairly up-market area and there is a demand. We probably would not do so well in some of the more urban places, where people still want crusty white loaves or the sliced stuff."

In a year Mr Lister sells enough flour to make six million loaves of bread. It is all high-quality, ranging from English to an all-Canadian flour. He said: "Sometimes we mix them. English flour has a good taste but little volume, while the Canadian wheat produces volume but not much taste. It is important to supply a reasonable range of flours, although from our point of view the fewer customers and mixtures we have, the simpler it is."

In 1982 Shipton Mill received a Rural Employment Award for establishing a small and successful business in attractively converted redundant buildings and contributing towards increased rural employment. Though there had been a mill on the site since Domesday, the buildings were derelict and had to be completely rebuilt before being fitted out. They needed more space so an 18th-century barn was transported from Hereford and re-erected to blend in. It cost £13,000. A modern steel-framed farm building of similar size, says Mr Lister, would have cost £21,000.

MR FRIDAY



"Look, are you absolutely sure you've got the right place?"

Banners unfurled for Captain Flash

Licensing deals that are virtually franchises are on offer for a computerized system producing laminated banners and signs which are claimed to offer big cost advantages, particularly on runs of less than 50. The Captain Flash chain is being built up by Banacom Communications, which claims to be first in fully exploiting new instant techniques that originated in Australia and were then taken successfully by Banacom's master company to the US and Canada.

The British offshoot is aiming to appoint 50 licensee operators in the

BRIEFING

the town and help them start or expand their own enterprise, writes Sally Harris.

First prize is £5,000 cash, followed by financial assistance for the next three years. Second and third cash prizes are £3,000 and £1,500 with corresponding aid for three years. The contest will be held annually.

David Turvey, industrial development officer, says: "Schemes may be in services, manufacturing or something else constructive, but not purely retail."

The closing date is March 31 and application forms are available from the borough valuer, Town Hall, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 2BQ. Tel: (0582) 31291, extension 2150.

Luton, Bedfordshire, is running a competition to tempt people with innovative business ideas to

US retaliation will hit EEC steel exports

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The Reagan Administration, in its strongest steel action to date, has taken retaliatory measures against the European Economic Community which could result in the reduction of 400,000 tons a year in European steel exports.

Mr Clayton Yeutter, the US trade representative, said that the United States was taking the strongest measures at its disposal, in effect to retaliate against the EEC for its actions against American products in a continuing trade dispute over steel.

The American decision, announced yesterday, would allow the British Steel Corporation to honour its contract with the Tuscaloosa, Alabama, steel plant to supply up to 200,000 tons a year of semi-finished steel products. But the action means that British Steel will be barred from taking up any of the remaining 400,000-ton quota now applied to EEC steel exports. A spokesman for Mr Yeutter's office said the action was taken in response to "the unfriendly retaliation" by the EEC in barring American exports.

The move eliminates all flexibility in steel trade between Europe and the United States, restricting EEC exporters to fixed quotas outlined in an earlier agreement. The new arrangement would, in effect, cut sharply European steel exports at a time when both sides are seeking to boost trade to stimulate their economic growth.

The action limits the share of European finished steel products in the United States to 4.3 million tons and to 600,000 tons for semi-finished steel products.

APPOINTMENTS

Balfour managing director named



R C M Rankin

Balfour Beatty: Mr R C M Rankin has been appointed managing director. Magnavox Systems: Mr Robin Gessler has become managing director. The Union Discount Company of London: Mr John Scherer is to be deputy chairman in succession to Lord Rennant, who will remain on the board. Mr Greene Gifford, group managing director, will in addition become an executive deputy chairman of the group. Crest Nicholson: Mr John St Lawrence has become a non-executive director. Ruberoid Contracts: Mr Bruce B Davies has been appointed financial director. Lowfield Distribution: Mr Rob Scribbles has become managing director. Sizwell "B" Project Management: Mr Derek Taylor has joined the board. Midland Bank International: Mr Ian Spight has been named as corporate finance director, aerospace. Don & Low: Mr Akshair McIntosh has been made product development director. Edelman Dale Financial: Mr Alan J Kennard has been appointed director. Taxsoft: Mr Mark Scott has joined the board.

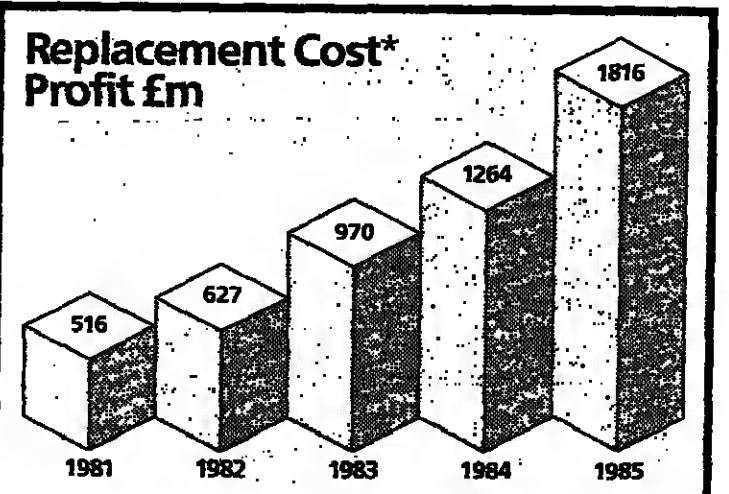
Guinness: Mr Brian Baylis becomes managing director of Martin Retail Group in succession to Mr Nicholas Ward.

BP GROUP RESULTS, 1985

An excellent year

Progress in 1985
BP recorded excellent results for 1985. Replacement cost profits rose 44% to £1,816 million, after tax but before extraordinary items. All major business areas performed well, despite weakening crude oil prices and keen competition. Refining and marketing turned in a particularly good result. Historical cost profits rose by only 14% to £1,598 million, reflecting stock losses caused by lower oil prices. Extraordinary items amounted to £929 million. Earnings per share increased to 87.4p, and recommended net dividend

per share rose 13% to 34.0p. Group capital expenditure grew £583 million to £4,398 million and funds generated were £6,070 million. **Prospects for 1986** Unstable oil and currency markets make for an uncertain outlook. However, BP's broad spectrum of business activities provides substantial protection against upheavals in any one market. Progress in rationalising operations and strengthening the group's financial position provides a sound base from which to enter 1986.



Key Financial Results	1985	1984
Group Profit after taxation and before extraordinary items (£m)		
- Replacement Cost	1816	1264
- Historical Cost	1598	1402
Earnings per share (pence)	87.4	76.8
Dividend per share (pence)	34.0	30.0

* before extraordinary items



Britain at its best

Banks raise lending to small businesses

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Despite increasing competition among the clearing banks, the big four and their rivals still have a tendency to move at the same time when a new idea is gaining momentum.

Though not strictly new, lending to small and medium-sized businesses is becoming a craze. For sound business reasons, the banks are eager to join in. Three banks announced plans this week to upgrade their services to small businesses.

Lloyds Bank is to double the size of its Business Loan Scheme - designed for small and medium-sized firms - committing an extra £500 million in lending to the scheme this year.

On Tuesday, Yorkshire Bank gave notice of its intention to move aggressively into the small business lending market after concentrating for several years on building up its personal banking side.

On Monday, National Westminster announced a re-organization of its branch network, which was partly aimed at giving a more responsive and competitive service to local businesses.

The definition of a small business is inevitably hazy, but the market is enormous. Of the 1.5 million businesses on the VAT register, for example, 1.44 million have a turnover of less than £1 million a year. These clearly count as small or medium-sized firms.

Then there are those so small that they fall below the £19,500 turnover threshold of the VAT register. On the face of it, lending to small businesses may not look

particularly attractive, because of the higher risks and the absorption of more bank management time in assessing potential loans.

But although in recent years lending to large corporations has become less profitable as margins have been pared - often to less than 1 per cent - small business lending is typically done at between 3 per cent and 5 per cent above the base rate.

Also, the personal banking sector is showing signs of saturation and intense competition is not helping profitability.

Having put enormous efforts into this sector for nearly two years, the banks have now noticed that small businesses are another area ripe for development.

The banks insist that small businesses are better organized and advised than ever before, making it easier and quicker to evaluate a request for a loan.

They have also learnt a lesson from recent personal banking initiatives: there are potentially huge sums to be made in fees and commissions by selling related services to small businesses. These range from payroll services and financial advice to insurance and pension planning.

Banks have, of course, always lent to small businesses to an extent. Lloyds estimates that it has a total exposure of about £3 billion. But the new interest the banks are taking may at last do something to dispel the long-standing criticism that they do not do enough to help the country's entrepreneurs and small businessmen.

Return to profits at ENI

From John Earle, Rome

ENI, the Italian state-owned oil and chemicals group, has returned to profitability after five years of losses with a record net consolidated group profit in 1985 of more than 800 billion lire (£2350 million).

Losses had risen as high as 64 billion lire in 1984, more than 1,400 billion lire in 1983, and 1,500 billion lire in 1982. ENI's chairman, Senor Franco Reviglio, said in a letter to the Government that the three-year recovery

programme had left the group with a solid base from which to tackle the reorganization and concentration being forced on oil and chemical industries by the changing international energy scene.

The group's oil refining division improved its results last year as a result of severe rationalization which imposed a sharp drop in primary refining capacity. Other divisions doing well were hydrocarbon production and sales, engineering and services. But chemicals, minerals and mining, and textiles reported losses. The group is increasing its investment for future development. Capital investment rose by 1,000 billion lire in 1985 to reach about 5,700 billion lire (£2.53 billion), Senor Reviglio said. At the same time the group's consolidated debt fell by more than 1,500 billion lire (£660 million).

Vertical text on the left margin containing various small notices and advertisements.

Vertical text on the right margin, including a large handwritten signature 'J. Earle' at the top and other illegible text.

THE TIMES Portfolio

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements. Add them up to give you your overall total. Check this against the daily dividend figure published on this page. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the total winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming.

Table with columns: No., Company, Year since issue. Lists various companies like Banks Discount HP, Grand Nat, First Nat Finance, etc.

Weekly Dividend table with columns: Please make a note of your daily totals, the weekly dividend of £20,000 on Saturday's newspaper.

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

PORTS (Under Five Years) table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

AS TO FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

ER FIFTEEN YEARS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

DATED table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

EX-LINKED table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

BANKS DISCOUNT HP table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES Shares lack direction

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Feb.10. Dealings End Feb.21. Contango Day Feb.24. Settlement Day, March 3. Forward Bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Table with columns: 1985 High Low Company Price Change % P/E. Lists various companies like Anglo Siam, Anglo Siam, Anglo Siam, etc.

BREWERIES table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

FINANCE AND LAND table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

FOODS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

CINEMAS AND TV table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

DRAPERY AND STORES table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

ELECTRICALS table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

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LEISURE table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

MINING table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

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THE TIMES Portfolio DAILY DIVIDEND £4,000 Claims required for +44 points Claimants should ring 0254-53272

PROPERTY table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

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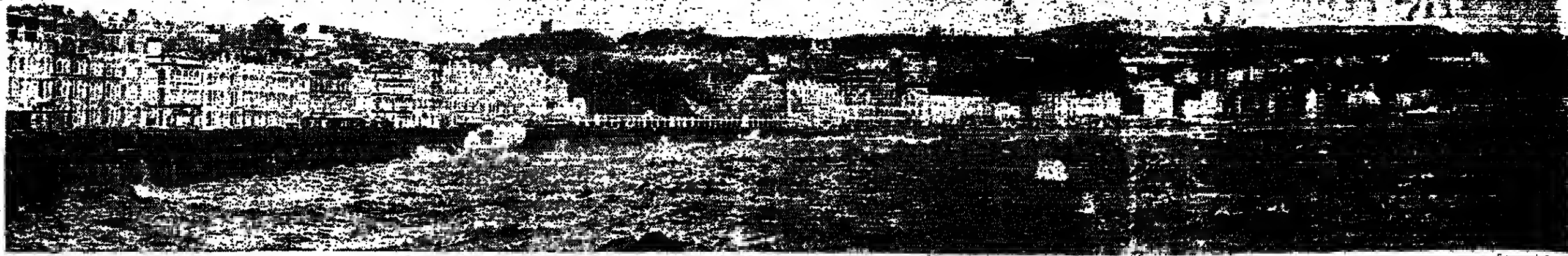
Table with columns: No., Company, Price, Change, %.

THE RIGHT PLACE TO PARK YOUR CAR. Includes an image of a car and text about parking services.

February 21, 1986

By Alan Hamilton

A SPECIAL REPORT ON THE ISLE OF MAN/1



On the waterfront: The sea-front promenade and the old harbour of the island's capital, Douglas, now making an unashamed assault on the holiday market

The optimistic islanders

There is a small factory in the Isle of Man making bedroom slippers for Marks & Spencer. In common with most of that retail chain's goods, they are labelled "Made in UK", a serious and fundamental error calculated to hurt the Manxman's pride to the very quick.

Although only 16 miles from the nearest point of the Scottish coast and 30 miles west of Cumbria, the island is not and never has been part of the United Kingdom. Its tiny independent parliament of Tynwald claims to be the oldest legislative assembly in the world, founded by raiding Vikings in 979AD. It owes no allegiance to Westminster, only to the British Crown.

Yet its fortunes are immutably tied up with those of Britain and it suffers many of the same ills that beset the mainland, the chief among them being a decade of economic depression and an unemployment rate now approaching 10 per cent.

Local residents complain of a high cost of living, endemic to islands that have to pay high transport costs. And there are anomalies; housewives complain that a pound of locally produced beef is cheaper in Liverpool than Douglas.

The return air fare to London

costs £124 (although there is now a £20 off-peak single fare to Liverpool) and it costs £34 for a car and driver to be ferried to the mainland.

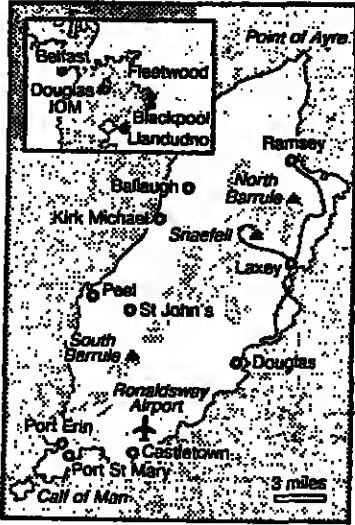
The theoretical advantage of independence is that Man can tackle those ills with measures entirely tailored to local requirements, although in truth its record of doing so in the past has often been less than glittering, progress being held back at least in part by a form of government so stable that it approached ossification.

Now, after a millennium and a bit, things are beginning to stir on the island that has been unkindly described in the past as 65,000 geriatric alcoholics clinging to a rock in the Irish Sea. The Manxmen are well enough aware that the first condition for "political independence is economic independence.

To bolster a flagging economy, and in the hope of reducing the unit costs of its social services, the island has since last year been pursuing an active but selective "New Resident" policy. (The government studiously avoids the word "immigrant".) The current drive for incomers, or "comeovers", is the result of a similar policy pursued in the 1960s and 1970s after the island population had fallen to 48,500; the children of those incomers are now coming on to the labour market, and jobs are scarce.

Man believes that its existing infrastructure will support comfortably an increase of 10,000 on its current population of 65,000.

Social services and education, despite cuts, remain well up to mainland standards, and are in many cases better. Five comprehen-



parts of the Scottish Highlands or rural Wales, it is its position as a tax haven that is the island's biggest draw: a flat rate income tax of 20 per cent, and few other taxes of any kind, either corporate or personal, which serves only to underline the voracity of the British Inland Revenue.

In the past the Isle of Man has sometimes found itself regarded as a bit of a joke among connoisseurs of tax havens. It may have been because, until as late as 1979, it still had on its statute book a Usury Act which restricted interest on all borrowed money to a maximum of 12.5 per cent.

It is largely to enhance its attractiveness as a tax haven, or "offshore financial centre" as they would rather have it, that the Isle of Man is now contemplating major political reforms.

There is growing pressure to abrogate the common customs agreement with the UK, which would turn Man into a duty-free area and, more important, allow it to levy its own rates of VAT to suit the local economy.

Although it is too early to judge the success or otherwise of the new resident policy, there is a feeling of optimism which its leaders say has not been present for many years.

Finance, the island's largest industry, has regained respectability after a major bank crash in 1982 and is showing healthy signs of growth, shepherded by tough new banking rules which, it is claimed, would make a Johnson Matthey-style collapse almost impossible on the island.

Manufacturing, the second largest sector of the Manx economy, is also showing a modest upturn.

Even the island's drawbacks—the lack of sophistication, night life and top-class hotels—are turned by the travelling Manx salesmen into advantages. They underline, they say, the enormous scope for growth and that the place is indeed unspoilt, stable and secure.

What they do not mention much is the island's biggest single current talking point: the ferry. Ferries are an endemic topic of complaint in most island communities.

The islanders have not forgiven the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company for merging with Seafair and moving the route from its age-old home of Liverpool to the desolate waste of Heysham further up the Lancashire coast. The Steam Packet has now said it will call at Liverpool again at least twice a week from this summer.

In a fit of anger and with more than half an eye to a fast buck, a Manx-registered company has taken an option on a highspeed aluminium-hulled vessel now being built in Western Australia, and is threatening to skim the angry waves of the Irish Sea to Liverpool in two hours—about half the present ferry time—if the Steam Packet does not mend its ways.

The Isle of Man seems, for the first time in many years, to be living up to its familiar three-legged coat of arms and its motto *Quocunqve, Jecris Stabit*, which might be liberally reworded as "Whichever way you throw me, I shall always have a leg to stand on."

A change of style in politics



Dr E.J. Mann: Chairman

Dr Edgar Mann, a retired English general practitioner, chairman of the Manx Government's executive council and, therefore, effectively the island's prime minister, hopes that by the end of the year he will find himself closer to the British definition of that office.

Tynwald, the ancient parliament that celebrated its millennium in 1979, owes little to the Westminster model and likes to flaunt its superior antiquity by describing itself as the Grandmother of Parliaments. What it has not had in the past, but is about to have soon, is a form of Cabinet government.

Proposed reforms now before Tynwald could herald a significant change of style in the world's oldest legislative assembly. It may even be the start of a challenge to the basic and long-held assumption that there are no party politics in Tynwald and no formal opposition—each of the 24 members of the lower House of Keys sitting as an independent.

The day-to-day functioning of government, the Civil Service, is carried out by 25 semi-autonomous boards covering such areas as education, industry, harbours and tourism. They are the nearest equivalent to British government ministries.

The difference is that several members of parliament sit on each board and each member is likely to find himself on several boards at a time. The current thinking is that such a system spreads the responsibility and accountability of the individual members too thinly and makes for a cumbersome inefficiency.

The planned reforms, likely to be passed for the island's next general election in November, will change all that. The 25 boards, each a corporate body in its own right now, will be rendered down to eight or nine government departments, each with its own single minister in charge.

More significant still will be the future composition of the executive council which consists of the chairmen of the principal boards. They are elected to their posts by

Continued on page 23

Do you value your independence as much as we do ours?

Having been independent for over 1,000 years, we've developed a unique sense of freedom that underlies all aspects of our way of life. Though geographically part of the British Isles, we have our own parliament and make our own laws.

We offer a comprehensive range of incentives to attract like-minded individuals and companies to join our thriving financial and business community.

Our top rate of tax for individuals and companies alike is 20%, and there's no Corporation Tax, no Capital Gains Tax, no Wealth or Surplus, and no Estate Duty.

Our laws grant important concessions for insurance and other financial institutions. And we offer industry generous grants for new buildings, plant and machinery, working capital loans on favourable terms, and help with marketing, training and relocation costs.

We're developing Europe's only offshore Freeport and we have an excellent international telecommunications network.

The Island also offers you plenty of space, a superb natural environment, and a very friendly way-of-life based on traditional values where independent people can feel free.

You'll find all you need to know about the Isle of Man in our specially prepared Factfile. To get your free copy, simply return the coupon today.

Isle of Man

Our independence means your freedom

TYNWALD HILL
The name is of Viking origin Norse *Thing völr* meaning Parliament Field

From time immemorial the national assembly of the Manx People has been held here on Old Midsummer Day 5 July (formerly 24 June) when TYNWALD the Manx Parliament meets on the hill and all new laws are proclaimed

The terraced hill is said to be formed of soil gathered from each of the ancient parishes

John Webster, Economic Advisor, Isle of Man Government, Government Offices, Douglas, Isle of Man.

Please send me more information about living and working on the Isle of Man.

Name _____
Company _____
Address _____
Telephone _____

هكذا من الأصل

Strolling down the road to independence

There is ever-growing talk of the Isle of Man declaring UDI. Indeed, it is so widely regarded as inevitable that the only remaining question is when, and it is likely to be well ahead of the island's next general election in November.

Man needs only give six months' notice that it wishes to sever its remaining fiscal ties with the UK.

Under the common customs agreement Man is within the UK customs area, what jars with the Manxmen is that that obliges them to levy VAT at exactly the same rate, and on the same goods and services, as the mainland. Half of the island's annual tax revenue — about £42 million — is effectively raised at the whim of the British Chancellor, and its local needs are inevitably close to the bottom of the Chancellor's list of priorities.

Give fiscal independence, Man would still have to raise much the same total tax revenue, but it would have the liberty to adjust the balance of the burden to take account of local needs. One area likely to be given high priority for relief would be the booming financial services sector which pays a standard 15 per cent VAT on transactions.

The tourist industry has long been in favour of breaking the fiscal bond with Britain in the belief that the lure of duty-free drink and tobacco would help arrest the steep decline in traditional holiday business.

Principal opponents have been the island's industrialists — chiefly in electronics and light engineering — who fear that the customs service which would have to be set up would add an unwelcome layer of bureaucracy, delay and expense, to the detriment of potential British and foreign orders. These objections, however, are now being made with rather less force than before.

Dr Edgar Mann, chairman of the Manx government's executive council, believes the break to be inevitable sooner or later. "It is gradually becoming accepted that, if we are to move forward in political maturity, we should have control of our own indirect taxation."

But he is not without reservations. "I am not sure that the present government here yet has the political maturity to cope with such freedom. So we have to ensure that our own budgetary methods can cope with the pressures that would be put on individual members of the government."

Reforms before Tynwald to introduce a more Cabinet-style government and make ministers more accountable for their areas of responsibility are seen as part of that progress to maturity. A fiscal break would leave Westminster responsible only for Man's defence and external affairs.

Unlike the Channel Islands, Man willingly pays the UK government for those external services at the rate of £1 million a year.

Fiscal independence would not, in the short term at least, alter the island's relations with the European Community which, like the Channel Islands, are governed by a Protocol 3 agreement. Man is within the Community's external tariff area and thus enjoys free access to markets — but it neither pays into Brussels, nor does it receive.

In the longer term, if the Community's programme of harmonization ever proceeds to full implementation, there might well be pressure on the Protocol 3 territories, despite present assurances, to become full members of the club or to be excluded altogether. Such a move would spell the end of Man's total fiscal independence, but the island remains confident that this still is a long way off.

Government lacks political maturity to handle freedom



Style and security: The glass-domed interior of the Isle of Man Bank's head office in Atholl Street, Douglas

Out of the monetary muddle

When the Isle of Man's Savings and Investment Bank failed in 1982, owing its depositors £42.2 million, it looked as if the island's reputation as an offshore financial centre had suffered a wounding blow, with permanently damaging consequences for what has become Man's biggest industry.

The mess left by the collapse of the Savings and Investment Bank (not to be confused with the Isle of Man Bank, the island's oldest and now part of Nat West) has yet to be satisfactorily cleared up. Creditors are still battling for an acceptable settlement from the liquidators, and four years after the event there is still no sign of the Manx government's report into the crash.

Local politicians disclaim responsibility, and say that publication — or suppression — is entirely in the hands of the Deemster, the head of the island's judiciary. It is difficult to escape the conclusion that the report is simply too damning an indictment of Man's former lax banking supervision for it ever to see the light of day.

But the SIB crash had its beneficial effects. It stirred the island authorities into closer supervision of the financial sector, chiefly through the appointment of a former Bank of England official, Jim Noakes, as banking inspector, to ensure rigid application of the 1975 Banking Act, together with a colleague of similar standing, Duncan Neil, to regulate the insurance industry.

Since Mr Noakes' arrival in 1983, several bottom-drawer institutions have been frightened off. There has also been a virtual moratorium on new banks coming to the island; Mr Noakes is determined to only let in institutions of the highest standing. A new arrival is Scotland's Clydesdale, and Mr Noakes would like to see one or two of the most prestigious American banks, to help reduce the island's overwhelming dependence on sterling deposits.

There are 43 licensed banks on the Isle of Man, and seven licensed deposit takers. Legislation before Tynwald will tighten the banking laws even further but will also, for the first time, allow in some of the leading UK building societies as deposit takers.

The SIB crash did not, in the event, ruin the Manx offshore finance industry, although the growth in deposits has been slightly slower than in the years immediately before 1982. At the end of September 1985 deposits in Isle of Man banks totalled £2,416 million, an increase of 23 per cent on the previous year.

Of the total, £365 million, a fairly small proportion, was in non-sterling deposits.

Despite the increase, Man lags far behind the Channel Islands: deposits in Jersey total about £19 billion, and in Guernsey £5 billion. A far greater proportion of CI deposits is in non-sterling currencies, and they are heavily involved in the Eurocurrency business which Man barely touches.

Mr Noakes believes there are a number of reasons why Man weathered the SIB storm. First, the story put the island on the map and brought its name to the fore as an offshore centre. Second, the authorities acted quickly and decisively to put their house in order. Finally, the island's political stability and closeness to the UK is a powerful draw for money seeking a safe haven.

The growth in Manx bank deposits partly arises from the fact that money left in the bank will grow anyway, from a transfer of funds from UK banks because of composite rate tax, and from a marketing effort by the Manx banking community, including sales missions to Wall Street.

There is some uncertainty about what the impending Big Bang in the City of London will do to the offshore money markets, but there is a general confidence that it will bring benefit rather than harm.

"The Big Bang will increase the amount of paper assets available," Mr Noakes says. "The range of financial products will increase, and more individuals will get into investment. That can only be good for the Isle of Man, which has also specialized in personal rather than corporate finance."

"A major financial capital like London needs an offshore centre," Mr Noakes said. "There are plenty of people with perfectly legitimate reasons for doing their business offshore."

"A non-British national may want to deal with London without rendering himself liable to British taxation. Far from taking money away from the UK, offshore centres put a great deal of reinvestment business into London that it would not otherwise get."

The Manx banking community is confident that it will continue to grow, especially if it can reduce its dependence on sterling deposits and attract more international business. The occasional American voice is already to be heard in the bars of Douglas complaining about the hotel accommodation.

The financial infrastructure is well established, with most of the leading investment and accountancy houses present on the island. The latest arrival is Arthur Andersen, the world's largest firm of chartered accountants.

But Mr Noakes, of all people, is well aware that the waters of offshore finance can be particularly shark-infested to the unwary. "Deal with the established names; don't go looking through the back pages of Exchange and Mart for the fly boys" is his heartfelt advice.

Crash put Man on the map as an offshore centre

A bid for big risks

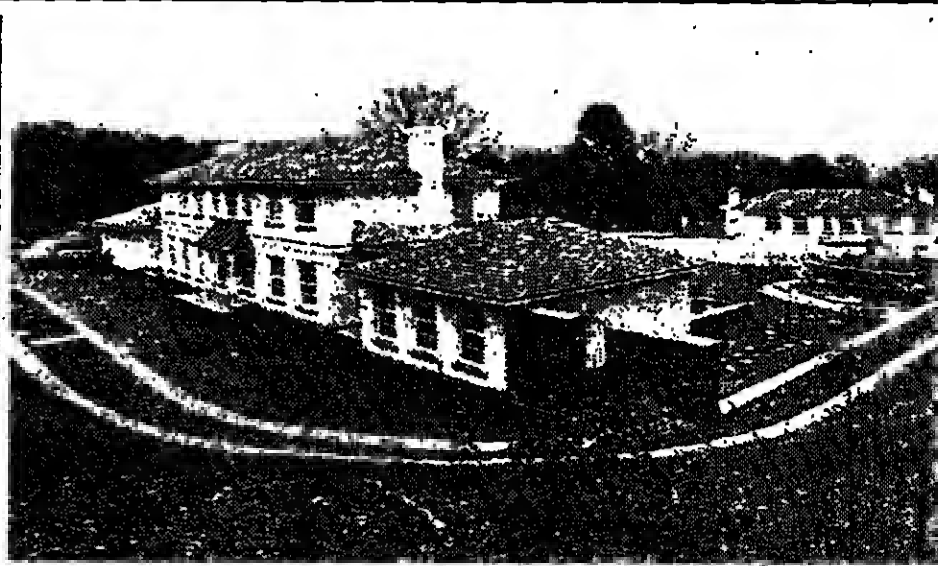
An Isle of Man insurance exchange handling the mega-risk business, which recently proved the undoing of some Lloyd's syndicates, is the goal of Duncan Neil, the Manx government's insurance inspector. He was appointed in 1983 to keep the more dubious operators out of the island's now-flourishing offshore insurance industry.

The recent Shuttle disaster has concentrated the minds of the mega-risk market; up to one-third of a space shot launch cost can be in insurance premiums. The London market, with its traditional one-year cycle of profit — or loss — taking, is not best equipped to deal with it, Mr Neil believes. He sees scope for a Manx equivalent of Lloyd's taking the longshot risks on a five or even ten-year profit taking cycle, to enable a healthier build-up of reserves.

Meanwhile, last year saw considerable growth in the more traditional offshore insurance market on the Isle of Man, with 19 licensed insurance companies, including 26 highly specialized "captives" and eight life offices, now operating on the island.

Man passed a tax exemption law to encourage the business in 1981, but only since insurance rates worldwide have hardened in the last year have companies flocked to take advantage of it.

New law before Tynwald will tighten up and formalize the conditions Mr Neil imposes on all new applicants.



Top notch: Houses at "millionaire's" Hillberry Green range from £170,000 to £500,000

A wealth of property on the books

Ten years ago Manx estate agents put local house prices on a par with the affluent south-east of England. Now the comparison is with the North-west, an indication of the stagnation of the island's economy in general and the property market in particular.

While average mainland house prices rose by 8 per cent last year, Manx prices showed only a 1 per cent rise. In recent months there have been more hopeful signs of activity, especially at the top end of the market. But the island's agents have a wealth of property in all sectors on their books.

The all-time record for a private house sale is £305,000, paid last year for an elegant five-bedroom Georgian-style residence in 20 acres of magnificent garden, five miles from Douglas. That may soon be exceeded by a luxurious modern property expected to come on the market at £800,000. But that includes 100 acres of farmland which a buyer might be able to sell to recoup some of his outlay.

There has been little new building in recent years. A rare executive housing development now being built is at Howstrake Heights, on an elevated site above Douglas Bay, where a maximum of 75 detached houses of high specification will sell for between £93,000 and £106,000 — expensive by Manx standards.

To take more prosaic examples, all from the books of local agents Chrystal's Stott Kerruish: £25,000 will buy a modernized four-bedroom terraced house in Douglas, or a two-bedroom bungalow; £30,000 will buy a three-bedroom semi; £50,000 a five-bedroom chalet bungalow on the outskirts of town; £75,000 a converted school with four bedrooms in a scenic location at Laxey; and £110,000 a five-bedroom period country house in four acres on the edge of Ramsey.

Bungalows are in plentiful supply — an added advantage is the absence of stamp duty. Mortgages up to £19,500 are available at 11 per cent from the Government to first-time buyers.

UK building societies do not operate on the island but mortgages are available from local banks at UK rates.

Shipping flies the flag

Since last year the Isle of Man has been bidding in the world shipping market for flag-of-convenience business against the established competitors of Liberia, Panama and Hong Kong.

After lengthy negotiations with the Department of Trade, it was allowed to establish its own shipping register, but only under stringent conditions. Ships must essentially be British-owned, all senior officers must hold British or Commonwealth mariners' papers, and survey and registration requirements must be up to British standards.

When the Manx register was first proposed the National Union of Seamen voiced fears of low standards and dangerous conditions for crews.

There are now 41 merchant ships with a total gross registered tonnage of 144,233 tonnes registered in Man.

For the shipowner, Manx registration confers tax advantages on his company and greater respectability than similar operations.

There is also a substantial Manx-based ship management business, looking after the running of vessels of all flags, again for reasons of tax advantage. The Douglas office at Wallens — a Hong Kong-based management company — and Denholm are the major concerns competing for this business on Man.

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John Webster, Economic Advisor, Isle of Man Government, Government Offices, Douglas, Isle of Man.

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Our independence means your freedom

A change in the political style

Continued from page 22 Tynwald as a whole and the council chairman has, therefore, virtually no say in its composition.

Under the new system the chairman will be able to choose who will head the government departments.

"This new system is intended to achieve some forward-looking policy for which you need a certain amount of cohesion," Dr Mann said. "At present, there being no parties, every member makes his decisions on a personal basis. There has been a tendency simply to shelve important decisions."

But Tynwald is a tiny parliament, with only 24 members of the House of Keys and eight members of the upper house. It therefore follows that once a Cabinet is appointed its members will comprise nearly one third of the entire assembly. And therein may lie the seeds of the island's first opposition.

"I have always felt that the more executive power you give to a group, the more counterbalanced power you must give to an opposition. As we have at present no opposition as such, I can only assume that some kind of loosely-formed opposition is likely to emerge out of those not selected for the Cabinet," Dr Mann said.

"This is a very significant change. Under the new system those appointed will each do one job and they will carry full responsibility for it. A minister will come under great pressure from his own sector or industry and from the public at large if he is not performing well."

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Taking a firm line on the telephone

When, late last year, British Telecom submitted its bid for the licence to run the island's phone system, it promised to turn the Isle of Man into a world showpiece of telecommunications. Now that its tender has been successful it is up to the islanders to ensure the promise is kept. They have a sporting chance of success, as under the new contract the island will have considerable autonomy. BT and its predecessor, the British Post Office, have run the Manx telephones since 1912. But when Westminster passed the legislation for the privatization of BT, Tynwald passed parallel legislation enabling it to put the island's phone contract to tender.

60,000 outgoing calls a day

Cable and Wireless entered a rival but ultimately unsuccessful bid, despite intensive lobbying and promotion.

Now that BT has been granted a 20-year licence it intends to activate a wholly-owned subsidiary, Manx Telecom Ltd, kept in reserve for that eventuality. Manx Telecom is to operate independently of its parent, the world's fifth largest telecommunications undertaking, with a Manx chairman and Manx board members.

Manx Telecom will pay an initial licence fee of £7.5m to the island government and £250,000 a year thereafter. But it hopes that the Government will take equity in the company and, in due course, offer shares to the public.

There are already 2,200 BT shareholders in the Isle of Man which, even allowing for a certain number of accommodation addresses, is more per head than in the UK. The main advantage to the island in having its own quasi-independent telephone company is that it will be able to set its own charges to take account of local conditions. The density of phone owner-

ship - 25,000 subscribers in a population of 65,000 - is not greatly different from the mainland, but they are heavily used. The island's 11 exchanges handle 60,000 outgoing calls a day and the Douglas banks and finance houses are heavy users of BT's range of data transmission services.

BT has committed itself to £34m worth of new investment on the island during the 20-year period of its licence. Promised improvements include the replacement of all inter-exchange cables with optical fibre, the laying of an optical fibre cable to the mainland, the digitalization of all exchange equipment by 1990 - 10 years ahead of the UK - and possibly even by 1988; new payphones throughout the island; and the building of the island's own satellite earth station.

Many of the promised improvements are already under way - 86 per cent of customers' lines are connected to electronic exchanges, compared with less than 60 per cent in the UK. One third of payphones have been replaced with up-to-date equipment.

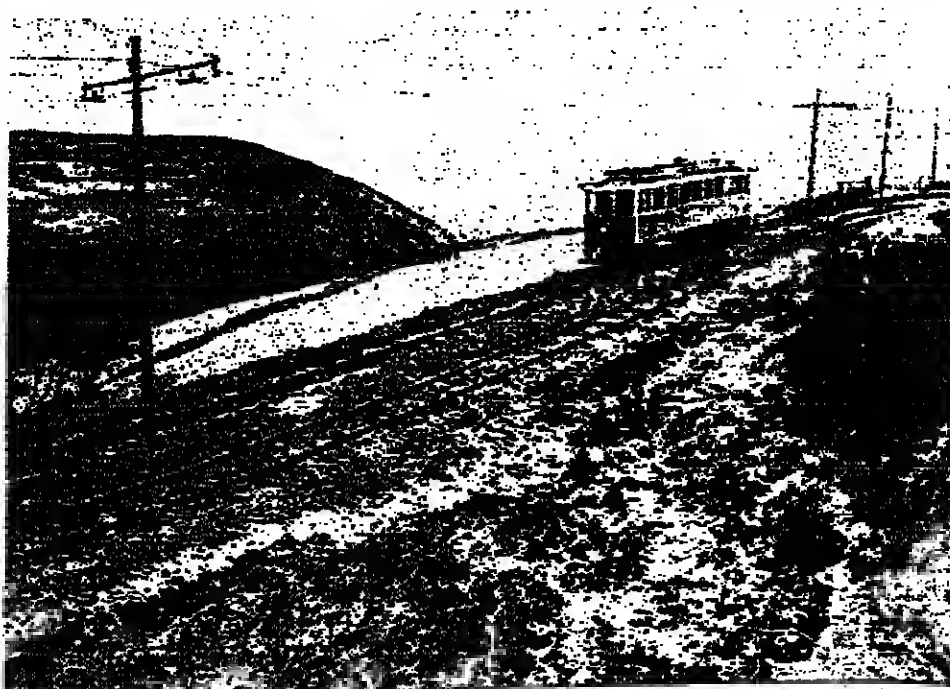
Some BT services common in the UK are not available, including cellular telephones, which could be of benefit to the island's emergency services, and cable television.

BT says it will provide them if sufficient demand is proved. It is also evaluating demand for a Network Nine centre that provides up-to-date office services and the full range of

Many promises are being fulfilled

telecommunications links, for new companies or those with only an accommodation address. For local businesses it already offers the popular video conference link-up facility.

All it needs to do now is to discover why - at least in the experience of this correspondent - so many push-button direct-dialled calls to the UK end up as wrong numbers.



Lonely splendour: A charming electric light railway train, near Mangold

Love, hate and Mr Gubay

"This island," said Mr. Albert Gubay, sticking his pug-nacious chin within an inch of mine and fixing me with pale, riveting eyes, "is run by a bunch of comedians."

The comic aspect of this Lilliputian state did not, on the face of it, appear to have done Mr Gubay a great deal of personal harm. Clad in old donkey jacket and navy's wellies caked in mud and cement, he was plunging about a building site directing a gang on the erection of a private residence of majestic and almost tasteful opulence.

Mr Gubay is not a full-time site foreman. He is a Welsh grocery millionaire who made a fortune from a chain of supermarkets; the house, in a sequestered dell near Douglas, was for himself. In what might have become its front garden under a less dynamic owner, a ponderous ballet of JCBs was sculpting his own private nine-hole golf course.

Mr Gubay and the Isle of Man government live in an agreed state of amiable, mutual hostility. He regards them as slow, backward and indecisive; they look on him as a headstrong, impatient, loud nuisance, a kind of entrepreneurial wasp.

There are no political parties here, so everybody has his axe to grind. It takes them forever to do anything, and when they do it's always the

wrong thing. I offered to build their freepost for them; they could have had it running by now. But they chose to jump into bed with some other developer (British Land, in fact) and look where it's got them; they haven't built a thing yet."

The Government plainly does not want Mr Gubay to build its freepost, and privately resents the method of his approach, which it regards as bordering on the underhand.

"Look at them now, fretting about whether they should go duty-free. I told them they should have done it years ago; just look at the Channel Islands, how well they've done. But it's taken this lot years to make up their minds. Meanwhile they just sit back and watch their unemployment grow. Look, I offer a prize, a grant, call it what you like, of up to £50,000 every year to anyone starting a new business here. How much have I been able to give away this year?"

He turned to his accountant who had been hovering nearby in a sharp blue suit and camel-hair coat, thoroughly out of a building site. "£16,000, A.G.," said the accountant, who appeared to have picked up the etiquette of how to address the boss from Reggie Perrin.

"There you are," said A.G.

"They don't encourage anybody to get up and go." A.G. of course has limitless reservoirs of get up and go. One almost expects his energy to flow from the waterfall being constructed of giant boulders beside his house. His current enterprises in the Isle of Man include a property company, a merchant bank, and the island's first commercial safe deposit.

But despite his fulminations against a government which steadfastly refuses to travel A.G.'s road of unbridled capitalism, he loves the place.

"Even if there were no tax at all in the UK now, I would never go back to live there. Here there is no mugging, no crime, and few burglaries; it's the greatest place in Europe for old folk. Schools and hospitals are not crowded; I don't know of a better place to live, and I can't understand why it isn't bursting at the seams."

A.G. stomped off in his wellies to see to a delivery of building materials and to survey progress on his golf course. It was only a par 27, but unlike any course in the Channel Islands, and many a course in the Home Counties, there was no hole from which you could drive a ball into anyone else's garden. The Isle of Man is still big enough and empty enough to contain even the likes of A.G.

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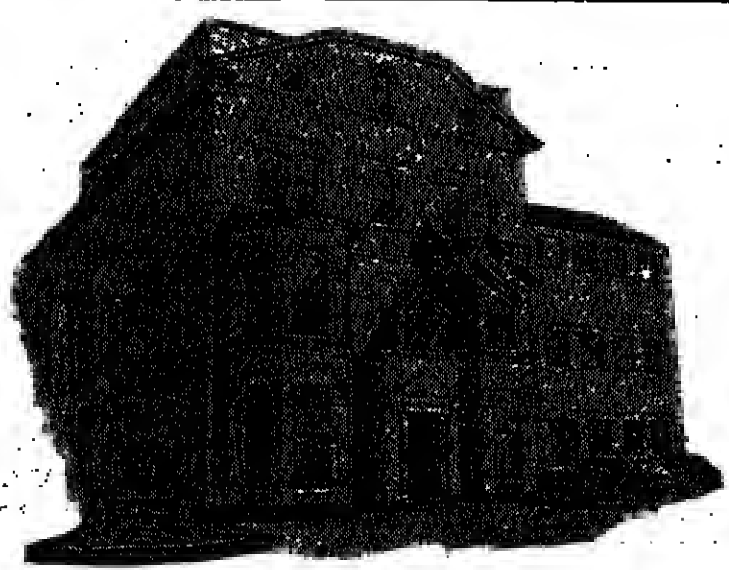
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Coins illustrated slightly larger than actual size to show detail.
Diameter of Angel and Noble is 32.7mm.
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THE ISLE OF MAN/4



Taking the high road: One man and his dog strolling along the Ramsey to Douglas road, part of the famous TT races course



Finishing touch: John Harper at Shebag Gallery, Ballamodha, painting porcelain figures

Upmarket approach makes tourism a money-spinner

Readers of the Sunday colour supplements will have noticed a recent spate of double-page spreads promoting the holiday delights of the Isle of Man. They are part of a determined effort by the island to shake off its proletarian image and to make an unashamed assault on the upper end of the market.

In the 1920s, when the Wakes Weeks brought tidal waves of cotton workers from the industrial steves of Lancashire, the island virtually lived off its summer tourist boom. Those days are no more.

Numbers are still falling as the many For Sale boards outside defunct Douglas boarding houses testify. In the summer of 1975 there were 564,611 passenger arrivals on the island; by the same period last year they had fallen to 351,000.

In 1975 there were 1,028 hotels and guest houses; now there are 717. Numbers of available beds have shrunk in that period from 13,928 to 11,143. Even the Tourist Trophy races, still the major single event in the Manx holiday calendar, are not the draw they were; an attendance of 79,000 in 1978 had fallen to 41,000 last year.

But tourism is still the third largest industry after financial services and manufacturing and it remains a major plank in the economy. The growth of the financial sector has brought a different kind of visitor, with more money on

his credit card and by no means confined to the summer months.

Surprisingly, tourist revenue has more than managed to keep pace with inflation: £12.5 million in 1975-76, £17.5 million in 1980-81 and £21.3 million in 1983-84.

Despite its considerable scenic attractions and its unharmed air, the island has in many ways been lucky to sustain a tourist business. Only one new hotel has been built during the past 24 years, the Cherry Orchard at Port Erin opened in 1984. The largest hotel, the Palace in Douglas, has recently been refurbished, but the general Manx hotel standard is likely to disappoint.

One old hotel, the famous Golf Links at Castletown, has recently fallen into new hands, and there are hopes that an extensive improvement programme will bring it up to acceptable international standards.

Last year the Manx government introduced compulsory grading for all hotels and guest houses; only one, the Cherry Orchard, achieves the top grade of five keys. There are complaints locally that the scheme should have been introduced years ago, but a defensive Tourist Board points out that it is still one step ahead of the UK.

The island fares rather better with its restaurants. There is a large and varied selection, many of high standard, and two, La Rosette at Ballasalla and Borcompte in Douglas, have made it to the pages of Egon Ronay.

Building jobs for the future

Unemployment in the island is now running at 9 per cent which, although low compared with the more depressed areas of the mainland, is regarded as a wholly unacceptable level. In such a small community it is difficult to hide a dole queue of 2,500 people.

Traditional areas of employment, such as construction, have been the worst affected and the Manx government is trying to cushion the worst effects by timing the commissioning of public works projects to coincide with slumps in the private sector. One of the main aims of the island's current campaign to attract new residents is to stimulate new building.

Manufacturing industry, after several years in the doldrums, is now reporting a modest upturn and is exhibiting a general air of optimism. The government is anxious that among its new residents there should be a fair sprinkling of entrepreneurs who will establish new industries and jobs. They do not want people who will simply swell the dole queue.

Being an island, Man's ideal industry is one that converts low bulk into high value to



Waiting for lift-off: Major Malcolm Wren, left, of Wren Skyships, and his assistant Ian Alexander, with model of their proposed airship

make the shipping costs worthwhile. It has already had considerable success in attracting new enterprises; industry now creates 15 per cent of the island's wealth, the largest contributor after the financial sector.

Several incoming companies are well-established and successful. Eildon Fabrics, for example, came from Scotland to make net curtains; Sailrest Engineers came from England to make suppressors. One of the latest and more unusual arrivals is Wren Skyships, which is seeking £11 million to grants from the government to establish the perfect island industry: airships. There are no freight charges when the

product flies itself to the customer.

Light precision engineering is the Maax speciality. Ronaldsway Aircraft, the island's biggest private employer with 650 workers, makes parts for Martin-Baker ejector seats. Isle of Man Engineering also makes parts for the aircraft industry and Strix makes thermostats for electric kettles. Laserflex uses advanced laser technology to engrave printing cylinders.

The attraction for industry is the low rate of tax: a flat 20 per cent on undistributed profits and nothing more. Unlike the mainland the island retains generous capital allowances. But against those benefits must be set higher energy costs, particularly for electricity, and freight costs to the mainland.

One major scheme to attract new jobs is the establishment of a freeport adjoining Ronaldsway airport.

Angels make a mint

Now that the once popular kruggerand is in many eyes a base and tainted coin because of its South African origin, the Manx treasury is hoping that those small investors who like to play the bullion market will come down instead on the side of the Angels.

The Angel was a medieval gold coin which first appeared in England from France in 1465 and disappeared again around 1630. It was revived by the Isle of Man last year, showing the standard profile of the Queen on the obverse and the same medieval theme of the Archangel Michael slaying a dragon on the reverse.

At a recent American exhibition of the coin minter's art, the Angel won joint first prize in its design class against worldwide competition.

Now a whole family of Angels is being produced, in sizes from one-tenth of an ounce up to 10 ounces. The standard one-ounce coin will remain the most popular because it is a convenient round sum.

In 1983 the Isle of Man produced the first platinum legal tender coin anywhere in the world for 150 years, and that is still the case. The Noble, like the Angel, is of medieval origin and its Manx revival in the one-ounce size has a nominal face value of £10, with a Viking longship on the reverse of the Queen's head.

Despite the relative volatility of the bullion price, more than £50 million worth of the Angel is selling well, Nobles have been sold so far.

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RUGBY UNION

England can catch up on their fitness during summer recess

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

It is going to be a hectic summer down under. France will be rattling round from Argentina to New Zealand to Australia, Italy are to visit Australia, and the Wallabies themselves have a tour to New Zealand where they will set about recovering the Bialoac Cup.

(when they entertain New Zealand) but England cannot because they are by no means so well blessed.

There is no place on the men's go-round for the home countries. Wales has hopes of visiting either Australia or New Zealand but, as latecomers, in what was scheduled to be a British Lions year, have been unable to arrange anything. They, like England, must be content with a B tour to Italy from mid-May to mid-June, encompassing five matches.

What England's administrators will do is endeavour to turn their players to the kind of athletes they will encounter in Australia next year during the world tournament. It is late in the day perhaps but there has not been a shortage of voices crying in the wilderness for most of the last decade. Don Rutherford, the Rugby Football Union's technical administrator, Chalkie White and other leading coaches who have seen the All Blacks on their native heath have been calling for greater fitness.

not compare with the sacrifice which leading athletes and swimmers have imposed upon themselves for years.

It is foolish to pretend that England have a production line of John Jeffreys waiting in the wings. The amount of advice the selectors will have received after last Saturday's drubbing at the hands of Scotland is beyond measure but the obvious alternatives for selection against Ireland in eight days time are few. Anyone may argue pros and cons in particular positions but essentially it remains a matter of individual preference rather than generally accepted omission.

The first fortnight of May will see Scotland playing five matches in Spain and France, Ireland, however, having nothing in the pipeline. Frankly, it may be no bad thing; there is going to be a lot of rugby between September this year and June next year and England's leading players, certainly, have had no summer respite for eight years. Since 1979 there has been either an England or a Lions tour to keep rugby's pot boiling.

New Zealanders who have come to work in Britain have been appalled constantly at the lack of application of English club players in their game preparations, though they concede that the players are not helped by burdensome fixture lists.

It is worth defining what the strengths of the English game are and that they are linked much to the sea breeze and working on them because the face of England's game is not going to change in 16 months - maybe by the time the second world tournament (if there is one) comes round, but not for the inaugural one.

France's casualty list will be when they return from their south Pacific travels. They may be able to afford the loss of outstanding players during their next domestic season

England's wasteful tradition is a warning to the Welsh

By Gerald Davies

It might be, if you listen hard enough, that the enigmatic French observation *plus ça change, plus cela change* is a neat summary of the Cambro-Gaelic struggle of the shoulders, arms half-outstretched, palms turned skyward, just might be heard in Wales.

had got it wrong against Scotland. The same Welshman might wonder at the route that Rob Andrew might be forced to wander and which might lead him to the same graveyard as so many English half backs of the last 20 years. The match winner against Wales and, rightly, the great hero of the hour, is now brought into question after only one game.

high, a welcome change from more recent years, and there has been improvement in every game. The total score, and it has been a matter of survival in large patches of their game on the prodigious efforts of the quintet of players, the half backs, centres and full backs.

Not necessarily to the whippers of those Welshmen from the more educated ranks, now justly brushing up their French phrases ready for the big match in a week's time and wanting something more than keeping with their station in life than the simple *cau*. Rather, it reflects the feelings of others: that after three years Wales are back in some kind of business. A Welshman, with the greatest delicacy of tongue, might also cast an eye over the border with head-shaking resignation and consider the phrase in the light of England's current dilemma. How is it, he may wonder, that out of the Welsh plethora after the victory against Wales should now so suddenly be replaced by something so utterly different?

The scrumming is beginning to look more solid, but neither Whitford nor Leicester are conspicuous elsewhere in the way prop forwards from other countries are to the loose. Stuart Evans, of Neath, would be included but for his injury, and it may be that Buchanan, of Llanelli, could get his chance.

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How much difference should one game make? Is there so much wrong with a team, as by common consent, had gone a long way to getting it right against Wales and, unchanged,

There are a few with substantial talent of whom it may be wondered how they could have played so few times for their country. Andrew and Barnes are not to find out whether history is about to repeat itself and they, too, might find themselves as part of this continuing, but wasteful, tradition.

Adrian Hadley seems to lack any sense of urgency on one wing, and Phil Lewis on the other, although an admirable defender, seems prone to dropping too high a percentage of balls. Although they have scored a try each during last year's season, neither has a good enough chance, to be fair, to show his paces to attacks.

Broughton Park are reaping benefit of home produce

Those who enjoy omelettes might care to note that Leicester, on the way to their first win in cup final, beat Broughton Park in a home fixture in 1979. Moreover, any Leicester follower (all of them students of the Orient) will tell you that this is the Year of the Tiger.

They have seen individuals such as Tony Bond go to Sale, Jim Scullion to Wigan and Paul Jackson, whose father and grandfather played for the Park, making his way with Harlequins. They will, of course, reflect that England's most capped player, Tony Neary, spent his senior career there, yet the shadow of Sale remains long. Only this season another centre, Lindsay Renwick, went to Brooklands before moving south and joining London Scottish.

Such changes are only likely if the Welsh selectors wish to look beyond next Saturday's game, but the prestige of playing in the championship, once so unlikely, may prove too strong a persuasion to tinker again with the line-up.

This season Leicester are once more due to Broughton Park to the fourth round of the John Player Special Cup, although the weather seems determined to postpone the game as long as possible. The Park's match inspectors at the Park's Chelsfield Grove ground today will indicate whether enough frost has come out of the playing surface.

The Park will tell you, frankly, that this is not the cup-size they would have chosen, recognizing that Leicester must be warm favourites. Nevertheless, this season represents a mad improvement on last year when their Irish full back, Kevin O'Brien, spent most of the season injured and they subsided from the Northern merit table back into the qualifying zone.

Both teams have been regular visitors to the top of the table in the eighties, Speedwell having won three times (1981, 1983 and 1985) and Capital City twice (1980 and 1984). They also make a habit of meeting each other in the final.

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The thumb injury that kept O'Brien out between October and April last season deprived Broughton Park of more than just its full back. Capable of Ireland against England in 1980 and South Africa the following year, O'Brien has the experience needed to prompt a team, many of whom are under 23, to be fit and away the best place kicker in the club (232 points this season) and remains the fastest back in the side, wearing his 30 years lightly.

Before then, however, the destination of the league title must be decided. Capital City will have no say in that this season but Speedwell will, and this weekend at that. Level at the top of the table with Polonia, they go to their rivals.

When considering Manchester rugby one tends not to think much beyond Sale, though the Park and the Manchester club itself are venerable institutions. Manchester celebrated 125 years of rugby before Christmas and the Park have seen 104 seasons come and go. Over that time they have developed a healthy self-reliance, learning to pro-

duce their own players rather than depending on talent moving into the area. They have seen individuals such as Tony Bond go to Sale, Jim Scullion to Wigan and Paul Jackson, whose father and grandfather played for the Park, making his way with Harlequins. They will, of course, reflect that England's most capped player, Tony Neary, spent his senior career there, yet the shadow of Sale remains long. Only this season another centre, Lindsay Renwick, went to Brooklands before moving south and joining London Scottish.

Stone, standing some 6ft 7in, came into the side 15 months ago. Graham Higginbotham, a Lancashire colt, was brought in this season after injuries disrupted the existing midfield and he held down his place to the centre alongside the diminutive Chris Morgan, whose tackling - as with so many small men - belies his stature.

Dutch pull out of England game

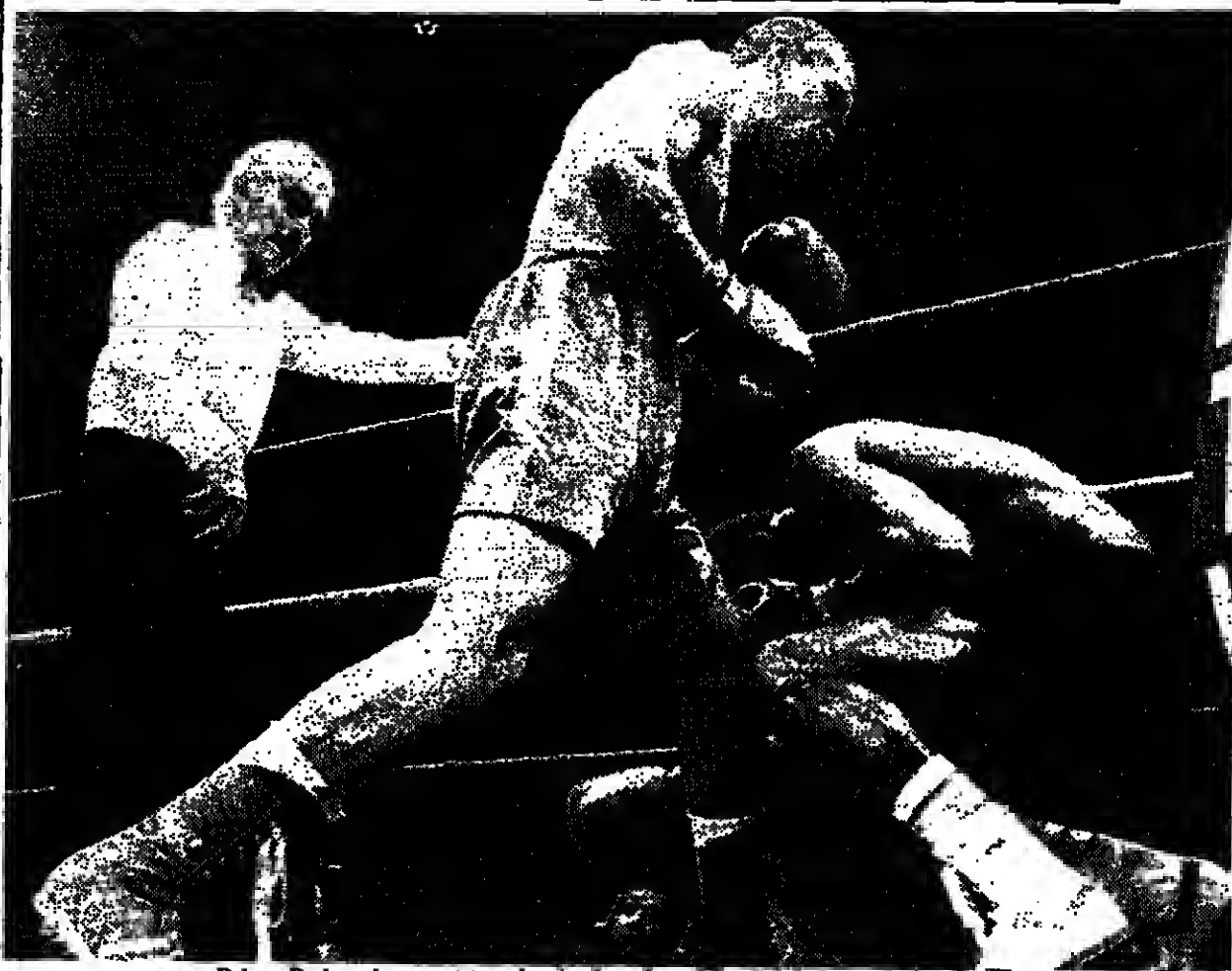
Schools rugby by Michael Stevenson

Not surprisingly the England 18 group trials, which should have been held last weekend, had to be cancelled and have been rearranged for this weekend. The northern regional trials will be held at Loughborough GS tomorrow where Midlands will meet North, South and South West will face South East at the National Westminster Bank ground, Beckenham, Kent on Sunday.

The England 16 group side were scheduled to meet the Netherlands on March 23 at Newcastle upon Tyne but the Dutch have withdrawn because of financial problems and an attempt to make a realistic chance: that a match against the RSU

tries in two matches for the under-15s, they played most of the season in the first XV. His father is John Douglas, the former Lions and Scotland No 8. Two exceptionally promising players, Gavin Gee and Rob Forsyth, are selected for the Lancashire 18 group tour of Australia (July 13 to August 13). Gavin's father played with distinction as hooker for Wigan at rugby union and his grandfather was the legendary Ken Gee, the Great Britain rugby league prop, who toured Australia 36 years ago. Rob Forsyth captained the very successful Wishtanley College side and plays flanker for Orrell Colts.

BOXING: WITHERSPOON DATE LINED UP FOR WEMBLEY STADIUM



Prince Rodney bows out to usher in the reign of Pyatt (photograph: Ian Stewart)

The world is waiting for Bruno

By Srikanter Sen, Boxing Correspondent

Wembley Stadium could stage its first world title bout since Cassius Clay met Henry Cooper there in 1963, if Frank Bruno beats Gertie Coetzee, of South Africa, at Wembley Arena on March 4.

The promoters, Mike Barrett and Mickey Duff, said yesterday that they were confident of bringing the World Boxing Association heavy-weight champion, Tim WITHERSPOON, to London on June 14.

say is that the fight against Coetzee is all the more important. Another British champion with an exciting future is Chris Pyatt, of Leicester. He knocked out Prince Rodney of Huddersfield to win the British light-middleweight title at the Albert Hall on Tuesday night. Pyatt should go far; stopping Rodney was no mean feat. Rodney is experienced and has a knockout punch, but that did not worry Pyatt. He went straight in and took charge.

"We are 101 per cent confident we can outlast anyone if the fight goes to a pure effort," Barrett said. The promotion could gross £3 million - or even exceed £5 million, if the bout is seen for the world - according to Barrett. Bruno was delighted. "This is what I have been dreaming of for a very long time," he said. "But first I have to get Coetzee out of the way. I think I have got him taped. He is 30 and I don't think he should have another world title chance." Bruno's manager, Terry Lawless, said: "All I can

When Pyatt landed the right uppercut that caught Rodney full on the left eye and brought the champion to his knees, he stepped out of the shadow of the other Leicester boxer, Tony Sibson. Pyatt, however, wants to follow in Sibson's footsteps and move up to middleweight. In time, "I admire Tony," he said. "I learnt a lot from him when I was his sparring partner." The 23-year-old Commonwealth weight champion brushed aside suggestions that

he might be a bit on the short side for a middleweight. "I am as tall as Marvin Hagler and taller than Sibson. I am in no hurry but by the time I should be a middleweight," he said. However, as he is a close fighter he is open to the quick counter and has been floored and sustained two bad cuts, one above the right eye in his last contest and one below that eye in this one that needed six stitches.

I would prefer to fight for the European title. The board have promised to nominate me," he said. Besides, after Wiltshire's surprising defeat by Lloyd Hibbert, of Birmingham, the same night, when the Commonwealth champion was severely punished by uppercuts from the fifth to the eighth and had to be retired, a double championship bout between the two champions does not seem attractive at the moment.

Nor is Wiltshire's style interesting to watch these days. He tends to cast boxing to one side and walk into his opponents throwing body shots and getting caught too often in the process.

Pyatt can now box Nick Wiltshire, the Commonwealth champion, or go for the European title. Pyatt does not want to meet Wiltshire as they are friends and sparring partners. "Nick is a friend of mine," he said. "I would fight him because we are professionals."

VOLLEYBALL A 'getting to know you' final

By Paul Harrison

Two one-sided semi-finals have resulted in a final sounding final of the Royal Bank Cup on May 11 at Crystal Palace. Speedwell Racoon, from Bristol, the cup holders, defeated their local rivals, Redwell Lodge, 3-0 (15-4, 15-8, 15-5) last weekend and meet Capital City Brixton in the final. Capital City proved too good for Radio Treat Rockets, of the second division, who went down 3-0 (15-8, 15-3, 15-5).

YACHTING Fastnet designers can still learn

By John Nicholls

Last year's Fastnet race, although nowhere near as rough as that of 1979, was nevertheless held in extremely severe conditions. Of the 222 yachts that started from Cowes on August 10, only 70 of them reached the finish at Plymouth a few days later. However, unlike 1979, when several yachts foundered and 15 people lost their lives, only one boat required outside assistance last year and no one was seriously hurt.

lower, it was still more than 50 per cent to each case. In these classes the weather was less significant, partly because the 52 Admiral's Cup yachts were included within this group. There was both a series and a team event, so there was more incentive to finish the race. Only one Admiral's Cup boat is recorded as retired because of the weather, the other 23 none causes of retirement were due to hull or gear failure including 8 dismastings.

Both teams have been regular visitors to the top of the table in the eighties, Speedwell having won three times (1981, 1983 and 1985) and Capital City twice (1980 and 1984). They also make a habit of meeting each other in the final.

Of this dismal record the RORC comment: "It would be expected that the Admiral's Cup fleet would be designed, constructed and equipped to the highest standards. Even taking into account that the designs would be biased towards speed producing properties rather than ultimate strength, a retirement rate of nearly half must be considered as the disappointment."

Damage to sails was mentioned more often than any other oon-weather factor throughout the fleet. In conjunction with a high proportion of wet and soggy sails (many of them admittedly due to inexperienced handling) it would appear that there is still much to be learned about producing and using reliable rigs.

Modern hulls using light-weight composite materials are still giving cause for concern. It is perhaps significant that who the age of a yacht is considered the lowest retirement rate (excluding Admiral's Cup) was by boats over 10 years old. The winners of classes four and five were launched before 1971 while second and third places in class three were taken by boats of 1976 vintage.

Polonia have a game in hand, but Speedwell have dropped fewer sets. In Polonia's favour is home advantage and the fact that they won in Bristol two weekends ago, catching Speedwell by surprise. They are a naturally fit side, willing to exist at attacking side, and for us to beat Polonia we have to attack." Steve Nutt, the Speedwell coach, says: "And that is what we are going to do. We have to win."

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HOCKEY Five Cup places available

By Joyce Whitehead

The GMC Home Countries international B tournament, which starts today at Lancashire CCC's headquarters at Old Trafford, has extra significance for England. After the tournament five of their side will be selected to complete the England squad for the World Cup in July.

In the B side are last year's England captain Linda Carr (Lancashire) and Kim Gordon (Leicestershire), who have both been capped for England many times. Also in the squad are Caroline Rule (Leicestershire) who is now in Spain after injury, and there are other players who were in the England squad on the disastrous tour of Australia last summer, and all will struggle to regain their places.

Also competing in the tournament are Canada, they, like England, Scotland and Ireland are preparing for the World Cup. They have had a week in Ireland where special arrangements were made for them to play four matches on grass as opposed to artificial turf.

On Tuesday the North of England gave Canada a shock. They played on grass at Brooklands and beat them 4-0. There will be four matches today and tomorrow and two on Sunday morning. Play starts at 10 am with Scotland v Wales then Canada v England. Ireland v Scotland and the last match at 1415 Canada v Wales.

SKIING Putting Are on the map

Are. Sweden (Reuter) - After a two-week break, the men's World Cup resumes here today at the start of a programme of two downhill races, three slaloms, one super-giant slalom, one giant slalom and two combined in 10 days.

The Swedish resort stages Scandinavia's first World Cup downhill tomorrow on a new \$4-million (£2.7 million) course which the organizers hope will greatly improve Sweden's chances of hosting the 1992 Winter Olympics.

Today's race was postponed from Wengen, Switzerland, because of bad weather. A second downhill follows on Saturday and Are's eighth World Cup event concludes on Sunday with a slalom. The 3,090-metre piste, with a vertical drop of 863 metres, has proved very demanding in training. This piste is much more physically demanding than a flat downhill where you can cruise at 130 kilometres per hour," the 1985 World Cup downhill champion, Hellmut Hoffmeier, of Austria, said. "There are so many little bumps that you really have to fight your way through."

GOLF Flanders recalled after the deluge

From John Ballantine Los Angeles

As if all their other problems were not enough, the Cham of Commerce Centre, who hope to run the Los Ang Open, face disruption to the 60th tournament by the fierce storms which have turned Riviera greens into some of the bluest blazes in California. Unlike northern California this is not a disaster area but "City of Angels" has not seen rain like it for several years - even the players and greenkeepers manage to struggle through and bring the tournament to a successful conclusion by the weekend, not will be quite the same again. Trucks dumped 50 tons of dirt and gravel on to the wet parts last week but pre-tournament events from Sunday Wednesday had to be cancelled. Wednesday's program was cancelled and the unhappy 184 a Paris forfeited \$1,250 e-arts of the famous course Moore like Flanders in the World War than sunny California.

Spectators are notoriously fickle here and, as in the other-affected tournaments centred in Pebble Beach and Del Mar which were both red to 34 holes, a hefty loss is likely.

It is no secret that PGA officials would like to see commercial co-sponsor for this year and the Japan firm, Nissan, is said to be front-runner. The prize-mone of \$450,000 is low by present-day standards and the event is one of the poorest on national television this year.

"One reason for CBS picking us up is that they are not getting enough guaranteed advertising revenue," S Kelly, marketing director of Los Angeles Channel 5 said. "We've also got the date on the West Coast paid the circuit, just after Hawaii just before the pros have made the 3,000-mile shift Florida," he added.

A corporate sponsor will pay us cash and guarantee advertising but we are certain that is the way we go," he went on. "We I seen what is going on in Diego where they have three different names in the in the past five years and don't want to be at the merge a company who may question the million dollar in mail-out for sponsorship."

However, the wind of change is blowing that way. The phone company, AT&T, over Pebble Beach from K. Crosby, and Karsten Solth the names who have achieved clubs, told me in Honolulu week that he would like to play a financial role in future promotion of the Pro Open which is currently run by the Junior Chamber of Commerce in San Diego, who themselves the "Thunderbird".

MODERN PENTATHLON UK act to pay for drug test

By Michael Coleman

In a novel attempt to create the drug cheats from pentathlon, Britain is offering to pay for all the drug testing in the event in August. The offer is made to the Italian organizers in Montecatini, Italy.

Usually, only seven are able to see whether competitors are resorted to depressants or banned substances to give themselves an edge. In the past, the British sportsman in the pentathlon who has achieved highest score on the pistol plus four others picked at random.

The offer now from British Athletics Association is to conduct on all 66 men competitors to bring the samples back London for checking. "We will pay for the cost of the samples and the analysis of samples conducted at the College, which is the best testing centre in the world," says the association's secretary, John Hadden, general secretary of the association. All of this would be at British expense, the Sports Council having given its approval. The offer would remove the one obstacle to the use of the extensive test, namely the A round figure of \$50 (£35) mentioned each test.

One high reason for the initiative is the anger of the sportsman, who is made by the IUPMB, the governing body, last August revert to five-day international contests from this season. Each sport allotted a full The four-day formula, with shooting and the cross-country race held on the same day, thus been tried for only years.

By holding the two sports together, shooters are inhibited from taking days. Any profit gained on shooting range was more annulled by their slow-hearts and sluggish legs on cross-country course, it was regarded the U-turn to a day formula as an open invitation to the drug cheats to back into business. The British initiative, especially the offer to conduct the test in London could foil them. Ill-feeling, the handling of the drug samples at the Los Angeles Olympic Games still flounders.

The champions of Montecatini are August will be the first time in the history of the sport, a junior and senior men and women. I understand the British offer of 66 tests could just easily apply to 22 tests competitors to each of the events.

Swansea aid

The Bulgarian national team have joined the fight to save Swansea City from closure after agreeing to play a match at the Vetch Field on March 6 as part of their build-up for the World Cup in Mexico. They will also play Norwich City on March 4.

Dooley's new post

Derek Dooley, the former Sheffield Wednesday player and manager, was appointed managing director of Sheffield United yesterday. He will be in day-to-day control at Bramall Lane with the duties of chief executive. Dooley, now 56, scored 52 goals in 61 games for Wednesday

Motoring by Clifford Webb

How the Avant weathered the storm

A 15.8 ft estate car weighing almost 1 1/2 tonnes with a powerful 2.2 litre fuel-injected, turbo-charged engine would seem to be the most unlikely vehicle in which to tackle a 180-mile journey on roads treacherous after a heavy overnight snowfall. That was my lot recently - yet within the first few miles I was happily counting my blessings.

While others were sliding around or stuck altogether I got through with minimum effort. And when a Vauxhall Carlton suddenly shot out of control into my path I slammed on the brakes and reversed around it with such little drama that the driver never knew how close he came to being torpedoed amidst ships.

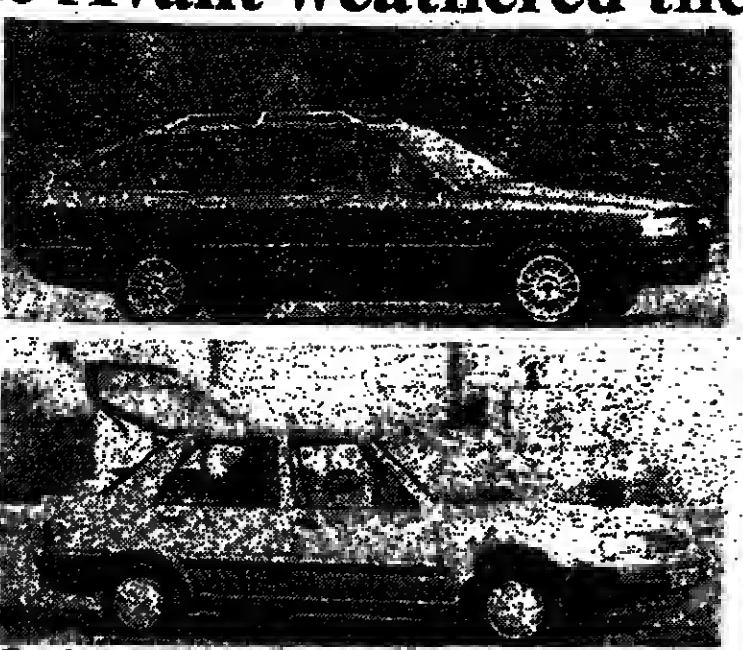
By now it will be obvious that this was no ordinary estate car. Indeed, 'ordinary' is the last adjective one would choose to describe the remarkable Audi 200 Avant Quattro. To begin with it does not look like any other estate car. Perhaps a better description would be a luxury saloon with estate car tendencies. Only the extra large set of windows behind the rear seats reveals its true identity.

But good looks, however appealing, are the last things drivers think about in such abysmal conditions. It was the Avant's hidden assets which were put to the test that day - four wheel drive and Bosch ABS anti-lock braking. Between them they must count for some £4,500 of the Avant's £23,307 price tag.

Yet for some 95 per cent of the car's life in the hands of the average driver they will never be needed. Most drivers are unable to take advantage of the extra traction available with a 4 x 4. A large proportion of accidents with Audi Quattros must be caused by drivers trying to find the car's limit through bends. It goes faster and faster and still retains limpet-like road holding. What they do not realize is that when a 4 x 4 comes unstuck - it happens entirely without warning and because of the very high speed invariably means a serious accident.

ABS on the other hand can be tested regularly to reassure yourself that when an emergency arises you know how the car will react. Choose a quiet road on a rainy day. Check your rear view mirror and at about 60 mph hit the brakes hard. You will immediately feel a light pumping action under your foot as the electronic sensors prevent the 'cadence' braking which keeps enough rubber in contact with the road to enable you to retain control through the steering wheel.

Towards the end of the test weather conditions improved to the extent that I was able to use more of the smooth-flowing power of the 182 hp turbo charged engine. The ratios of the very slick five-speed gearbox are well matched to its torque curve. The result is a very swiftly-responding combination



Top, the Audi 200 Avant Quattro, and below, the Peugeot 309 GL.

which invites you to throw this big car around like one half its size. I was disappointed however by the poor field of vision through the rear window. It is very restricted by the unusually high boot-line and an air-dam mounted three-quarters of the way down the steeply sloping glass hatch.

The 200 Avant is very lavishly equipped with an electric sunroof, fully automatic air conditioning, electrically operated sports-type seats and door mirrors, cruise control, additional long distance driving lights, warning buzzer for lights or radio left on and car assisted steering with lots of 'feel' built in.

Vital Statistics.
Model: Audi 200 Avant Quattro.
Price: £23,307.
Engine: 2144cc 5 cylinder injected-turbo charged.
Performance: 0-60 mph 8.2 seconds, maximum speed 140 mph.
Official Consumption: Urban 20 mpg, 36 mph 35.3 mpg and 75 mph 35.1 mpg.
Length: 15.8 feet.
Official Insurance: Group 8.

Peugeot's Hopes

Lying in bed recovering from a particularly virulent bout of flu is a very depressing time. With every joint in the body aching and a head as big as a bucket, even the most minor problems assume catastrophic proportions. This week when I was at my lowest ebb I struggled to recall something nice to lift the depression. The picture I conjured up was of a light green Peugeot 309. But surely with all the exotic machinery at my command I could do better than a run-of-the-mill French rival for the Escort, even if it

equipment, trim and engine size. How else will the works manager be able to show colleagues that he ranks higher in the pecking order than a 'rep'?

I pointed out this omission to Geoffrey Whalen, managing director of Peugeot Talbot UK at the cars launch in December.

Within 24 hours he had discussed it with his sales team. The outcome, according to reliable sources, is that within a short time 1.3 and 1.6 models will carry their engine size on the boot.

The model I tested last week was the GL 1.6 with a five-speed gearbox. This is one of the group's latest featuring an alloy cylinder block and head with an overhead camshaft. I have already remarked on the exceptionally clean pick-up and this allied to the smooth way the power is delivered makes it surprisingly quick. It is also one of the quietest cars in its class.

The 205 Supersport hatchback did wonders for Peugeot. The 309 five-door hatchback draws upon the same basic design but provides the passenger space and luggage room the 205 cannot. If Rytan maintains the high standard of the model I tested when production reaches its target of 1,000 per week the 309 could be just as big a winner.

Vital Statistics.
Model: Peugeot 309 GL.
Price: £6,385.
Engine: 1580cc.
Performance: 0-62 mph 12.5 seconds, maximum speed 106 mph.
Official Consumption: Urban 33.2 mpg, 56 mph 55.4 mpg and 75 mph 42.2 mpg.
Length: 13.3 ft.
Insurance: Group 4.

Go fast debut

A newcomer making a much delayed debut in Britain was launched at the Belfast Motor Show this week. The Renault 5 GT Turbo has been on sale in France for nearly a year and was so successful that exports had to wait their turn. It has the same 1.4 litre power unit as the Renault 11 Turbo giving the smaller car a top speed of over 125 mph and 0-60 mph time of only 8 seconds.

Among the changes made to cope with some 115 bhp is a new four-bar suspension layout. It also acquires disc brakes all round with the front pair ventilated.

The 'hot hatch' sector is one of the fastest growing with sales up from 14,000 in 1984 to 30,000 last year. Renault hope to sell 3,000 5 GT Turbos here this year but it is up against some pretty formidable competition in the Ford Fiesta XR2, MG Metro Turbo, Peugeot 205 GTI and the Fiat Uno Turbo. And at £7,360 the new Renault is the most expensive of the bunch.

CAR BUYERS' GUIDE

ROMANS advertisement listing various car models and prices. Includes models like Audi, BMW, and Mercedes.

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DOBBER advertisement listing various car models and prices. Includes models like Audi, BMW, and Mercedes.

HENLYS advertisement listing various car models and prices. Includes models like Audi, BMW, and Mercedes.

HENLYS OF NEWCASTLE advertisement listing various car models and prices. Includes models like Audi, BMW, and Mercedes.

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JULIANS OF READING FOR JAGUAR advertisement listing various car models and prices. Includes models like Audi, BMW, and Mercedes.

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MOTORS LEASING advertisement listing various car models and prices. Includes models like Audi, BMW, and Mercedes.

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3M's Whisper Telex advertisement featuring an image of the telex machine and text describing its features and price (£1,295).

AT LAST, YOUR CHANCE TO RUN YOUR OWN BUSINESS. BUT ONLY 26 CHANCES REMAIN. Advertisement for ENTRE COMPUTER CENTERS franchise development.

DISCOUNTS NOT IMPORTS advertisement listing various car models and prices. Includes models like Audi, BMW, and Mercedes.

OVERSEAS PROPERTY INVITATION TO MARBELLA advertisement listing various car models and prices. Includes models like Audi, BMW, and Mercedes.

MOTORS advertisement listing various car models and prices. Includes models like Audi, BMW, and Mercedes.

MOTORS advertisement listing various car models and prices. Includes models like Audi, BMW, and Mercedes.

B.M.W. advertisement listing various car models and prices. Includes models like Audi, BMW, and Mercedes.

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